Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-160 *18 August 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Talks With Israeli Minister 'Successful'

JN1708175595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 95

[By 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with Israeli Minister of Agriculture Ya'aqov Tzur at the Presidential Office in Gaza today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed obstacles to reaching an agreement on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles [DOP], the Hebron issue, and the water issue.

In a news conference following the meeting, President 'Arafat said that discussion dealt with many issues related to agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli Ministries of Agriculture. President 'Arafat described his talks with Israel's Tzur as constructive and successful.

Speaking about the water issue, which was discussed at the meeting, President 'Arafat said that water is an important issue and that there is a permanent committee in charge of tackling it. The president said they discussed the issue of the military siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, hoping that Minister Tzur and the Israeli Cabinet will do their best to end it.

Israeli Minister of Agriculture Tzur hoped that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will sign an agreement on the second stage of the DOP during the next few weeks. He added that the two sides discussed their joint concerns and how to achieve real progress and reach an agreement. Tzur said that President 'Arafat briefed him on pending problems between the two sides.

Police Foil Another Suicide Operation

TA1708171395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police are continuing the search for the youth Wa'il Nassar, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member who planned to carry out a suicide operation in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that the Palestinian police have detained a teenager who also planned to stage a suicide operation, as well as three persons who assisted him.

Official on Capture of Hamas Suicide Attacker

TA1808093795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the autonomy police, says that three days ago the Palestinian security services captured a Gaza Strip Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member who had planned to carry out a suicide attack on Israeli targets.

The Palestinian Police are continuing to look for Hamas activist Wa'il Nassar who is suspected of planning to explode a boobytrapped car in central Israel.

Defense Establishment elements told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that after the signing of the Taba declaration, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad intend to increase the attacks against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the Gaza Strip as well as to carry out terrorist acts inside the Green Line.

Hamas Spokesman on Arrests, Abu-Marzuq

NC1708193095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-'Idan] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah: The Zionist entity claims that you are the in process of sending a martyrdom-seeking commando group to Tel Aviv to carry out a jihad operation there. Is there any truth in this information?

[Ghawshah] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This report was originally released by Palestinian security sources and was given to Israeli intelligence. According to this information, a youth named Wa'il Nassar from Gaza is preparing to carry out an operation inside Tel Aviv. We cannot comment on this issue because it could be a ploy by the Palestinian security agencies to turn the Palestinian people against Hamas.

[Al-'Idan] A campaign of arrests against Hamas cadres in Gaza is under way. Is this campaign related to that issue?

[Ghawshah] The arrests of Hamas cadres are continuing; they have never stopped. Whenever a jihad operation takes place, the Palestinian Authority [PA] arrests Hamas' cadres and leaders to appease the Zionist authorities. More than 100 Hamas leaders and cadres are now being held in Palestinian prisons. They are being subjected to the most horrendous methods of torture and brutality.

[Al-'Idan] Did the latest [PLO] meeting in Tunis make any progress toward the goals of the Oslo Agreement; and why did the conferees' insist on withdrawal from Hebron in particular?

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[Ghawshah] As any observer will notice, whenever an agreement is concluded between 'Arafat and Peres or Rabin, 'Arafat goes abroad to get the approval of the so-called external authority of the PLO. The meetings he calls for are attended by less than the necessary quorum. The necessary quorum is two-thirds of the members; that is, 12 out of 18, but only 10 attend. They consider this a valid quorum. Then the conferees, either by majority or unanimously, bless the steps taken by 'Arafat. This procedure has been used before and could be again; it is meant to trick the PLO into giving its backing to the PA. As for the Hebron issue, it seems that the under the Taba Agreement, 'Arafat and Peres have agreed to set aside the question of Hebron. Because there is pressure by the Palestinian people in general and our people in Hebron in particular, the Palestinian leadership is trying to maneuver, to look patriotic, and to appear as if it is demanding a withdrawal from Hebron and redeployment.

[Al-'Idan] What is the latest information available about the case of Dr. Abu-Marzuq?

[Ghawshah] The latest we have heard is that Dr. Abu-Marzuq has been brought before a judge. A Zionist indictment, made up of approximately 11 pages, was presented. It says that Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq sends money to finance the jihad operations inside [the territories] and claims that some of the people detained inside have testified against him. Even though when he was arrested the U.S. Administration claimed that it was based on legal and not political grounds, as [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State] Pelletreau said, the Administration has revealed its real face. The next court session will be on 17 October 1995. This means that the U.S. Administration has given the Zionists more than 60 days, as they requested.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, what is the meaning of their extending the closure of [the border with] Gaza City and extending the detention [not further specified] for another two months by the Zionist Shin Bet?

[Ghawshah] I have answered the question regarding the closure of the Gaza Strip and have noted that this could be a conspiracy by the PA to use such a closure to blame Hamas for the closure and the subsequent economic problems. With regard to the second issue, relating to disregarding the Landau Commission laws for two more months and continuing the use of the method of shaking or shoving in the interrogation of detainees, this is a part of the inhuman racial policies of the Zionist Government. As a result of the practice of shaking and shoving detainees, one of the mujahidin, Mujahid Huzayrat, was martyred. This shows that the Zionist Government's claims about human rights and freedom and that it is opposed to terrorism and racism, are no more than blatant lies. The Zionist authorities practice terrorism as naturally as a man breathes.

[Al-'Idan] What is the internal picture in the Palestinian territories from the jihad and political aspects?

[Ghawshah] We could say that now, after the passage of almost four months, things are difficult for the mujahid forces, including the Hamas movement. These forces have been subjected to a concentrated campaign of arrests, oppression, and media and political distortion. We could claim that the worst of this wave is now almost over and that the mujahidin are in the process of reorganizing to step up the jihad, God willing. Also, there are now many contradictions that have come to the surface that threaten what is known as the Oslo Agreement. Settlers have started playing a more effective role. Religious bodies have started raising their voices against the occupation of the al-Aqsa. The Zionist right wing has now become the strongest voice inside and outside the Knesset. All these indications show that by the end of this year conditions could further deteriorate and cause the collapse of the peace process, which is actually a capitulation process.

[Ghawshah] A new faction has emerged in the Palestinian arena inside Gaza bearing the name the Islamic National Path Movement and claiming that it is a splinter group of your movement, Hamas. What about this matter?

[Al-'Idan] The listener, reader, or viewer might not know that the person who founded this alleged party is a certain Mahmud Dannun, who is now an officer in Palestinian intelligence. He was expelled from Hamas when he joined the ranks of the Palestinian security organs. He and others, who can be counted on the fingers of one hand, have been financed and encouraged by the PA to proclaim this party, which speaks the same language as the PA in recognizing the Oslo Agreement, the Zionist entity, etc. This is not the final step. It was preceded by a previous step, as observers might remember—the establishment of a party by one of the turncoats, Khadir Mihjiz. Before that, there was an attempt by Abu-Khusah. We believe there will be other attempts. The PA will continue to try to blow smoke regarding these alleged parties, which are powerless and which always disappear very soon after they appear. They will have no affect whatsoever on the course of the jihad or on Hamas in Palestine.

[Ghawshah] We thank Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, for this valuable interview.

[Al-'Idan] You are most welcome.

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Group Members Detained for Opposing Taba

TA1808094195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three DFLP members who wrote and circulated a leaflet which attacks the Taba declaration have been detained in Gaza. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the DFLP demands that 'Arafat stop the arrests and bestow full democracy on the Palestinians.

In Jericho, the Palestinian security services detained 20 PFLP members on suspicion that they had disseminated leaflets which condemn the Taba agreement.

Source Reacts to 'Campaigns' Against PFLP-GC

JN1708200195 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], the southern Lebanon command, has made a statement on the suspect campaigns against the Front. The source said:

The figures of capitulation and treason that are linked with the Zionist-American project have been bent on launching tendentious campaigns to tarnish the PFLP-GC image and history of struggle. The aim is to undermine the Front's adherence to armed struggle against the Zionist enemy which usurped our territory and rights.

The PFLP-GC source said: These voices which raise accusations and disinformation campaigns every now and then are heard in conjunction with the repeated Israeli attacks on social and humanitarian centers belonging to the PFLP-GC in Lebanon.

The source said: We in the PFLP-GC affirm that this fierce campaign against our national cause and the Palestinian rejectionist forces will not deviate us from the path of struggle and of confronting the American-Zionist project. Through alliance with all the active forces in our Arab nation, we will endeavor to foil the treasonous Oslo agreement and its consequences.

Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC.

PLO Emphasizes Position on Jerusalem, Prisoners

JN1708192195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the conclusion of its meetings in Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee stressed that the issue of Jerusalem is a basic and crucial issue in all phases of the political solution, and that the citizens of the holy city must participate in elections as voters and candidates. The committee also called for protecting Muslim and Christian holy places and Palestinian institutions and their activities in all areas.

In its final statement, the PLO Executive Committee called for the release of all prisoners and detainees held in Israeli occupation jails, considering this issue a basic element to reaching a transitional agreement.

Officials Condemn Gaza 'Siege'; 'Arafat Meets Tzur

JN1708174695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Aug 95

[By 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat is now holding a meeting with Israeli Minister of Agriculture Ya'aqov Tzur at the Presidential Office in Gaza. The meeting, which is being attended by Palestinian officials, will discuss latest developments in the peace process, as well as Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The two sides will also discuss agricultural and water issues.

In another development, officials of the National Authority have condemned the continuation of the military siege, imposed on the Gaza Strip since 10 August.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to and official spokesman for President Yasir 'Arafat, asserted that the military siege harms the daily life of the Palestinian people and that such a siege should not be used by Israel in an individual and arrogant manner. Kanafani said that the continuation of the military siege for any reason will expose the strip's cities to violence or threats of violence. He also said that there are many ways to avoid violence and end the agony of the Palestinian people.

For his part, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President 'Arafat, called for the cancellation of the special measures that Israel is imposing and that prevent the Palestinian workers from reaching their work sites. He asserted that the military siege has caused severe damage to Palestinian economy.

Spokesman Urges Better Cooperation, Raps Closure

TA1708183095 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Roni Daniyel video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian security forces in Gaza are continuing the searches for the suspect who planned a suicide attack in Israel. The closure on the Strip was again extended today.

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The Palestinian Authority [PA] spokesman revealed today that Israel possesses a videocassette with the terrorist's farewells made prior to the attack. Israel denies this. Our correspondent Roni Daniyel reports from Gaza:

[Begin recording] [Daniyel] Coordinated searches have been going on for almost a week. This symbolic activity of Israeli security personnel working nearby Palestinian policemen was caught by media cameras today because of Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur's visit with 'Arafat — which was held, by the way, under boosted security. Cooperation does exist, however, although the PA spokesman is reluctant to announce it.

[Unidentified PA spokesman, in English] The only thing they have now to work on is a video. I am not saying that this is not dangerous; I am not saying that we should take these things easy. The only thing I am saying is that we should not punish 1.2 million people because of that. There are better ways how to handle these things. There should be better cooperation on partnership basis to handle these things.

[Daniyel] We were unable to ascertain in Israel whether such a videocassette exists, and if it does, what it contains. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian Police do not know where Wa'il Nassar is and are making genuine efforts to find this Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist. Israeli security elements told us today that this pattern — a planned terrorist attack, a closure imposed by Israel, and searches by the Palestinian Police — will recur in the future, not only in Gaza, but also in Judaea and Samaria cities after an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal. [end recording]

Israeli Forces Storm Palestinian Establishments

JN1708155995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A large group of Israeli occupation forces stormed Palestinian establishments in occupied Jerusalem today. Occupation forces, accompanied by a number of intelligence officers, inspected these establishments and photocopied documents and files.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Tamimi, head of the Institution of Palestinian Hydrologists, said that occupation army forces stormed this establishment, photocopied many documents, and asked him about the institution's relationship with the Palestinian National Authority.

Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, hoped that Israel will stop its provocative operations in Jerusalem which were manifested in the inspection and questioning of workers in Palestinian establishments.

Commenting on the occupation forces' storming of Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem today, Kanafani added that this issue should be resolved with the Palestinian Authority [PA] in a calm manner. He said this act is harmful to the concept of peace for which the PA and the Israeli Government are working within the framework of the Declaration of Principles and all accompanying documents and letters.

'Ashrawi: Taba Accord Signed Under Pressure

TA1708182195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, general commissioner of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights [PICCR] has said that the declaration of principles reached by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was initialed as a result of U.S. and Israeli pressures and that the talks are still facing many outstanding issues.

In a statement to our correspondent Kayid Zahir, Dr. 'Ashrawi added that a PICCR branch was recently opened in al-Mukhtar Street in Gaza because of the growing number of complaints sent by the residents to the PICCR for investigation. She said that the security siege imposed on the Gaza Strip is impeding the work of PICCR officials in the field.

Qaddumi in Damascus To Meet With Oppositionists

MM1708131995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Qaddumi and Delegation in Damascus To Discuss 'Draft National Program'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Damascus yesterday for meetings with Syrian officials and Damascus-based Palestinian opposition leaders.

Palestinian sources told AL-HAYAH that Qaddumi was accompanied by a delegation including Hani al-Hasan, Muhammad Jihad, 'Abdallah al- Hurani, and Shafiq al-Hut, all of whom boycotted the PLO Executive Committee's recent meeting in Tunis.

The sources said that Qaddumi would discuss in Damascus the "draft phased national program" he announced the day before yesterday, before the Executive Committee's meeting, "and ways of enhancing the Palestinian

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opposition's efforts and of reviving the work of the PLO institutions." They added that the talks would mainly be with the leaders of the Palestinian organizations that were part of the PLO institutions but later suspended their membership, but not with the leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine.

Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of Islamic Jihad, has stressed to AL-HAYAH that a meeting with Qaddumi was "out of the question." He added that "the Americans, the Israelis, and President Yasir 'Arafat are capable of absorbing any political opposition or political opposition move." He said that "political action is necessary, but only military action can hit the agreement" between Israel and the Authority on redeployment in the West Bank.

He reaffirmed that Islamic Jihad intends to "escalate military action because it is the only way to fight the agreement, which represents a dangerous development in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and which is evidence that 'Arafat will remain prisoner of the Israeli strategy and policies which he cannot escape, having chosen that method of negotiation." Al-Shaqaqi pointed out that "any delay in military action is due to security and technical reasons and nothing else because there is a continuous political will and readiness to escalate military action."

In a related development, four organizations which come under the PLO umbrella have declared that the recent Executive Committee meeting was "a falsification of the Palestinian people's will" and was held "without a quorum" because it was boycotted by representatives of these factions and by a number of independent figures. A statement issued by the Popular Struggle Front led by Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, the Palestine Liberation Front led by Yusuf al-Maqdah (Abu-Nidal al-Ashqar), the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] led by George Habash, and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] led by Nayif Hawatimah, said that 'Arafat had called for the Tunis meeting "to use it as a cover and to peddle the agreement on the second stage of the Oslo- Cairo agreement...which rearranges the occupation, leaves Jerusalem under Israeli hegemony, opens a new way for Israel to keep the territory, the water, and security under Israeli sovereignty, and gives settlements and land expropriation a free hand." The statement added that the meeting "lacked legal and political legitimacy because the main national factions and independent figures boycotted it. Everyone knows that the Executive Committee was an expression of a national coalition of the PLO factions, not just a group of individuals. The conferees in Tunis only represented themselves."

Norway Investigates Use of Funds by Palestinians

TA1708171495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A report from Oslo says Norway is investigating suspicions that funds intended to build the Palestinian infrastructure are being used to buy property in Jerusalem instead. Norway fears that if the allegations prove to be correct, this may affect donations to a special fund set up to help Yasir 'Arafat carry out his development plans.

Ministry Criticizes Libya's Expulsion of Laborers

TA1708144095 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramallah — The Palestinian Ministry of Information has criticized the Libyan president's expulsion of 40,000 Palestinians who live and work in Libya to the Palestinian Authority [PA] areas.

This came in a statement by a responsible official source in the ministry. He said in the statement that this Libyan step, which was taken in parallel with the policy of economic suffocation practiced by Israel and depriving tens of thousands of Palestinian laborers and their families of their livelihood, will aggravate the economic crisis brought about by the Israeli measures and will increase the burden on the PA.

He added that the Libyan measure contravenes the most elementary rules and principles of treatment between the sons of the one nation. He emphasized that the Palestinian people, who have shouldered the responsibility of construction and development in all the Arab states, deserve to be treated as brothers and not be stabbed in the back.

While calling on the Libyan president to halt these measures against our people's sons in Libya, the responsible source asked the Arab League to annul the expulsion orders against Palestinians. He urged international human rights organizations to intervene and stop the repeated expulsions to which Palestinians are subjected whenever the political balance in the Arab arena shifts slightly.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Progress in Elat Talks; Peres, 'Arafat To Meet

TA1708164695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Peres and PLO chief 'Arafat will meet again at the end of the month, and after that, a meeting between 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin is likely to be held. This was decided at the Elat talks.

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Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Elat talks will continue next week, and although there is as yet no target date for their conclusion, a working plan has been devised, and the parties intend to end the talks next month.

Our correspondent has learned that this week's Elat talks have achieved material progress in almost every disputed issue, with the exception of the security arrangements in Hebron and the water issue.

Talks on Jerusalem May Begin Ahead of Schedule

TA1808072895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peace talks on Jerusalem may begin as early as December — five months before the deadline for such talks to start — according to an agreement reached between Israel and the Palestinians, Faysal al-Husayni, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Senior Israeli officials involved in negotiations with the Palestinians vigorously denied al-Husayni's claims.

"I believe there is an understanding that the talks on Jerusalem will begin immediately after the (Palestinian) elections," al- Husayni said, adding that this may happen as soon as December.

The Oslo Accords include Jerusalem among the "permanent status" issues on which "negotiations will commence... no later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period," which comes next May.

It was assumed that talks on Jerusalem would wait until then, although there have been calls from both sides for negotiations to commence sooner.

Al-Husayni noted that the Oslo Accords call for talks on permanent status issues to begin "as soon as possible," and that the three-year period is a maximum.

Palestinian sources said the agreement on the Jerusalem talks was reached at Taba last week between Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The sources said Israel agreed to move up the date for the start of the talks in exchange for the Palestinian concession of not carrying out balloting in eastern Jerusalem.

Eastern Jerusalem Palestinians will instead vote outside the city limits, the sources said. The agreement was aimed at appeasing both sides' need to show that it was not giving in on Jerusalem, according to the sources.

Al-Husayni, meanwhile, said that he knew of no written understanding reached on the status of Jerusalem during the interim stage at Taba, as some within right-wing Israeli circles have alleged.

Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir (NRP) [National Religious Party] has alleged such an agreement exists, and that it ensures that Israel would not interfere with Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

Me'ir alleged Peres and 'Arafat reached the "secret agreement" on Jerusalem at Taba, and that it also names five PA institutions in the city that Israel allow to continue to operate.

Over the past two days, police have gone to 13 Palestinian offices in Jerusalem inquiring whether they are connected with the PA, which would be in violation of the Oslo Accords and recent Knesset legislation.

The police visits follow the government's decision earlier this week to clamp down on PA operations in Jerusalem, including at Orient House.

A senior police source, however, said the action over the past two days was not directly connected with the government decision, and that police had carried out similar inquiries in the past.

Police asked workers at the office about their financial and managerial connections with the PA. At several offices workers gave police documents explaining their operations.

Police sources said Palestinian offices of communication, health, energy, human rights and development in eastern Jerusalem were visited, and similar checks would continue in the coming days.

The Jerusalem Media and Communication Center [JMCC], a well known independent Palestinian media office, was among the offices where police made inquiries. Ghassan al-Khatib, JMCC director, said "the visit is the continuation of the unjustified Israeli campaign against Arab institutions in Jerusalem. We consider it illegal, because our center is licensed and strives for independence, professionalism and freedom of the press."

Al-Husayni charged the police action violated the Oslo Accords and Peres's written promise afterwards not to interfere with existing Palestinian institutions in eastern Jerusalem. "Most of these places are registered under Israeli law," al-Husayni said, adding that police "should have checked before making accusations."

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Israeli Minister, 'Arafat Discuss Water, Sheep

TA1808102095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Aug 95 p A2

[Report by 'Amiram Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday told Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur at their meeting in Gaza that the differences between the two parties' positions on the issue of water would not be resolved shortly. Minister Tzur replied that the eastern mountain aquifer still had a large and unexploited potential for potable water and significantly more water could be pumped from it in order to supply more water to the Arab settlements in the West Bank.

'Arafat asked Tzur to permit the Gaza Strip to import 5,000 sheep from Australia due to the sharp rise in the price of mutton, which is in high demand in the Strip. Tzur promised to consider the request favorably.

Tzur offered the PA Israel's help in converting Gaza Strip farmers' vegetable fields into hothouses for flowers and strawberry patches for export, thus reducing the surplus of vegetables in Israel and the autonomous areas, and increasing the scope of profitable agricultural exports from the Gaza Strip. 'Arafat welcomed the proposal.

At the end of the meeting, both men decided to establish a small joint team to implement the decisions made yesterday and to promote agricultural trade between Israel and the PA.

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Algeria

Thousands Demonstrate Against Islamic State

LD1708200395 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Several thousand people demonstrated today in Tizi Ouzou in Algeria. They denounced fundamentalism and expressed their opposition to the creation of an Islamic state.

Egypt

'Credibility' of Holbrooke's Bosnia Plan Challenged

NC1808072895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)— The Cairo daily AL-JUMHURIYAH calls for lifting the ban on arms shipments to Bosnia and for an urgent meeting of the international and Islamic contact groups on Bosnia, pointing out that this is the last option toward settling the bitter conflict in the Balkans

The paper says in an editorial today that the vicious circle will continue in the Balkans because Serbian greed is dealt with too cautiously and because threats are made against the Serbs to which they are totally indifferent.

On diplomatic attempts to restore regional peace, AL-JUMHURIYAH refers to the U.S. plan promoted by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke. It maintains that this plan's credibility is challenged by two main factors. The first is the presidential veto of the Congressional decision to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims. After 10 failed mediation attempts, this casts doubts on America being an objective mediator. The second factor is that the plan does not address the issue of the destiny of the Serbian-seized Muslim safe areas, which are being used as a bargaining chip. This contradicts international legitimacy, it affirms.

The paper says that despite Washington's announcement that the plan could be amended, the parties concerned have seen enough about the plan to destroy it completely.

AL-AKHBAR expresses its deep regret that the Islamic world has taken the same passive course as the West on Bosnia. The Islamic world has waited too long in rescuing the brothers in Bosnia, who, in the past three years, have been the target of Tartarean massacres, the paper says.

In an editorial today, the newspaper criticizes Islamic states for hearing the cries of pain and sorrow and not taking a positive measure to support and assist a small people engaged in a battle for survival. The paper adds that the battle is against an enemy that is supported by many weapons that help it fulfill its dirty mission as quickly and as cheaply as possible.

The paper commends Egypt's supportive position toward Bosnia from the outset, noting the Egyptian call for a joint meeting of the Islamic and international contact groups to the end the tragedy that has dragged for too long.

'Arafat Briefs Musa on Palestinian-Israeli Talks

NC1708202895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 17 Aug (MENA)— Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening telephoned Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to brief him on the progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks, which concluded today in Elat and will be resumed on Sunday [20 August].

Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', Palestinian minister of economy and head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, also took part in the conversation. He briefed Musa on the work of the negotiating committees and the obstacles in the talks, particularly regarding Hebron, the security arrangements in the rural areas, and water rights.

Editorial Views Iraqi Defection, Saddam's Status

NC1608180395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Saddam: The Temple Is Collapsing From Within"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Unexpectedly, Iraq's dictator Saddam Husayn received a blow from within his family, namely, from his closest kin—his two daughters and their husbands.

While the Gulf war failed to overthrow Saddam, probably due to external U.S. objectives, members of Saddam's family stabbed him in the back in broad daylight, thus causing a great crack that Iraq's despot never expected. The impact of this crack on the fortress of the Baghdad ruler is not confined to his family. It has gone far beyond this limit to involve his allies, who only recently showed support for his aggressive scheme and plots against all the Arabs.

The relations between Saddam Husayn and the Jordanian king are an example. These relations have reached a level unexpected by any Arab. This confirms the dictum that there is no permanent animosity or friendship. There are only permanent interests. Baghdad's threats

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to Jordan over its granting political asylum to Saddam's family confirms that the Iraqi ruler is not the one who is defending the allies, rather, he is threatening them if they oppose his wishes even if they grant the right of residence to his family.

We feel sorry for Saddam! The fortress he built on the skulls of his opposition is collapsing under his feet. Saddam had the mightiest military power in the region. But he used it to strike at the brothers, invade their land, and devour their wealth. His closest kin had to flee his anger, persecution, and covetous schemes.

We feel sorry for Iraq and the people of Iraq, who suffer from the persecution of Iraq's Saddam.

Government Investigating 1956 POW Issue

NC1708143995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt has been following up on the matter of the Egyptian prisoners of war who were killed in 1956. He said that Egypt has received an initial report on the circumstances of the incident and that the Israeli Government is continuing its investigations of this incident. He said that Egypt wants to know the number of dead and the circumstances surrounding this incident.

Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists' in Mallawi

NC1808060895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—Four terrorist leaders in Markaz Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, were killed this evening when they opened fire on a central security force that was besieging the terrorists' hideout. The force returned the fire, killing the terrorists.

An Interior Ministry responsible security source said the four terrorists are Kasaban Abu-al-Khayr al-Tuni, BA degree in education; Zaydan 'Abd-al-Salam Zaydan, BA degree in business; Khalid Anwar Muhammad Isma'il, alias Khalid Abu-Zayd, diploma in industry; and Mashhur Firghali Sadiq, unemployed.

The source added that the four terrorists were wanted on several charges. The source said the security force seized an automatic rifle and two Russian-make 9-mm pistols. The prosecution has been notified.

Detained 'Terrorist' Abd-al-Ghani Interviewed

NC1708083095 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1910 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Interview with "terrorist" Rabi' 'Id 'Abd-al-Ghani by unidentified television presenters; place and date not given— recorded] [FBIS Translated Text]

[Presenter] Brother Rabi', I want to know your full name.
['Abd-al-Ghani] My name is Rabi' 'Id 'Abd-al-Ghani from al-Minya, Mallawi District.
[Presenter] Did you go to college?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes.
[Presenter] What degree do you have?
['Abd-al-Ghani] A degree in science.
[Presenter] Did you work in al-Minya?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes. I worked as an elementary school teacher.
[Presenter] How long did you work?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I worked for about four years.
[Presenter] Afterward, where did you go?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Afterward, in 1991, I was offered an opportunity to go to Afghanistan.
[Presenter] Who offered you this opportunity? I want to know what happened?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Someone from al-Minya Governorate who was praying with us one day.
[Presenter] [words indistinct]
['Abd-al-Ghani] He belonged to the Islamic Group but I did not know his name. I only knew that he was from al-Minya. He offered me travel to Afghanistan to struggle there on the side of the Afghan mujahidin. Naturally I was happy. I prepared myself quickly and traveled to Saudi Arabia and from Saudi Arabia to ...
[Presenter interrupts] You travelled to Saudi Arabia first?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I went to perform the al-'Umrah [minor pilgrimage]. I performed the al-'Umrah. Afterward I stayed a while until my travel papers were prepared.
[Presenter] Who prepared your papers and who paid for the ticket and other expenses?
['Abd-al-Ghani] At that time the tickets were paid for by charitable organizations.
[Presenter] What organization?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I knew of the Islamic Charitable Organization.
[Presenter] You arrived in Afghanistan in 1991?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I arrived in Afghanistan in 1992.
[Presenter] How long did you stay there?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I stayed about two years.
[Presenter] Where did you go when you arrived there? Who met you? What did you do there?

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['Abd-al-Ghani] I went first to Pakistan. From there I entered Afghanistan. When I arrived in Pakistan I went to a house called Bayt al-Ansar. Bayt al-Ansar sent jihad-seekers for training first and then dispatched them to the fronts.
[Presenter] Were there Egyptians there?
['Abd-al-Ghani] There were people of many nationalities—Egyptians and non—Egyptians.
[Presenter] Who did you meet there?
['Abd-al-Ghani] At first I did not meet Egyptians in Bayt al-Ansar. Bayt al-Ansar belonged to Arab aid organizations. Bayt al-Ansar sent volunteers to training camps. I went to one such camp, called al-Faruq camp. Training was carried out there on the basis that fighting would take place against the Russian army. Training took place in fighting tactics, how to clash with the Russians and defeat them, and how to resist aircraft.
[Presenter] You received military training?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Military training against the Russian enemy.
[Presenter] Who trained you?
['Abd-al-Ghani] People of various nationalities and with pseudonyms. They were highly trained and physically fit people. They had long experience of jihad.
[Presenter] Did you use this training? I mean did you carry out operations?
['Abd-al-Ghani] All of them were training operations. But as for the Russian enemy, it was our bad luck that we could not get involved, because Kabul had already been liberated and some other cities were falling into the hands of the mujahidin. So we had no chance to fight against the Russian enemy. We felt very sad about this.
[Presenter] [words indistinct] what year?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I stayed about two months in that camp. After that I returned to Peshawar because the war was over.
[Presenter] What was the source of finance? From where did you receive money and your monthly salaries?
['Abd-al-Ghani] The financing, the management of the camps, and things like that were highly secret.
[Presenter] What made you think of leaving for Sudan?
['Abd-al-Ghani] When I decided to go back to take my papers I was surprised that a particular person withheld my passport...
[Presenter interrupts] In Saudi Arabia or in Pakistan?
['Abd-al-Ghani] In Pakistan, in Bayt al-Ansar. He kept my passport and told me: Since you want to engage in jihad, we can fly you to Bosnia-Herzegovina. I told him I had two options: To return to Egypt or to continue jihad, especially as I did not consider myself to have done my duty toward Muslims who were being killed everywhere and living a miserable life while we could eat, drink, sleep, and enjoy life. He told me they could fly me to Bosnia-Herzegovina. I asked him if he was sure and he stressed that he was.
[Presenter] And you travelled directly from Pakistan to Bosnia- Herzegovina?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I am telling you that when I returned to take my passport I did not find it. It was with that person, Abu-al- Haytham, who told me what I have just said. He told me: You will not find anyone to help you travel. He added: We, the Islamic Group in Egypt, have fronts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and many other places; we train people worldwide and we will be honored if you join us—things like that.
[Presenter] Why did you not travel? What prevented you from travelling from Pakistan to Bosnia-Herzegovina?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Because I had little experience, knew no one there, and had only minimal contact with the Islamic Group, I could not act quickly, returning to Saudi Arabia or going to anyone to help me. I knew no one.
[Presenter] Who told you to go to Sudan?
['Abd-al-Ghani] While I was there I tried hard to find a chance to travel to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Kashmir, or any place there was jihad. I could not. The people who held my passport, the Islamic Group, told me it was difficult to travel to those countries. They said: We will send you to another place and from there you will see; we will send you where you like, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Kashmir, or elsewhere.
[Presenter] They offered to send you to Sudan?
['Abd-al-Ghani] That was at the end of my stay in Afghanistan. They said they would send me some place and from there directly to Bosnia-Herzegovina.
[Presenter] [words indistinct] that you would travel to Bosnia-Herzegovina?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes. Through Sudan. They said Sudan is a good country and that if I traveled from there I would have no problems.
[Presenter] The Islamic Group sent you to Sudan?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, they sent me to Sudan at their expense.
[Presenter] Did they give you money, tell you who would receive you when you arrived, who you would contact when you arrived?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I had my own money.
[Presenter] [words indistinct]
['Abd-al-Ghani] I took my own money when I left Egypt. My life savings. I also worked in Saudi Arabia before I left for Pakistan. On my return journey I took $100 for petty travel expenses.
[Presenter] Who received you when you arrived in Sudan?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I was supposed to stay in a hotel.
[Presenter] [words indistinct]

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['Abd-al-Ghani] He told me: We will send you to Bosnia. You will go to Sudan. You will look for a particular hotel and stay there. Someone will come and prepare your travel plans to Bosnia.
[Presenter] How long did you stay before this person came to see you?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Not long. I arrived two hours before dawn. I slept. Around 0900 or 0930 I was surprised by someone who came to see me. He took my passport and other papers and began waking me from my sleep. He welcomed me and said he had come to see me in the hotel as arranged.
[Presenter] Did he tell you to stay in the hotel or did he take you elsewhere?
['Abd-al-Ghani] He checked me out from the hotel and took me to a house belonging to the Islamic Group. I stayed in the house for three days. He told me: Right now the visas to Bosnia are few and their processing is not very easy. Chances arise occasionally to send you to Bosnia. You will stay somewhere with us for a short time. You will relax and rest. It is a good place, pretty. You will stay there until we complete your travel papers to Bosnia-Herzegovina.
[Presenter] What was this place?
['Abd-al-Ghani] A farm near Khartoum. Some individuals live there. There are some plantations.
[Presenter] How many people live there?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Between 15 and 20 people.
[Presenter] Egyptians?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, Egyptians.
[Presenter] Describe this farm. What was there other than the plantations?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Okay. Other than the plantations there are some rooms, which are used as living quarters. There are bathrooms.
[Presenter] We want you to discuss what is going on there, such as training and lectures.
['Abd-al-Ghani] I thought I would stay there a short period until my papers were ready and I would leave. I had no intention of participating in any activity. But there were, for example, lessons every now and then inside the farm, lessons in security affairs. The Islamic Group taught the security aspects required of the members in their movement, work, and the things required of them.
[Presenter] So there was training preliminary to particular acts, military acts. Hence, training in these acts was given.
['Abd-al-Ghani] This was understood. But I would sit in some lessons and listen.
[Presenter] Listen to what?
['Abd-al-Ghani] The teacher would come and teach the subject.
[Presenter] Teach what subject?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Security.
[Presenter] You studied particular topics.
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, security, intelligence, and communication were taught theoretically.
[Presenter] You mean there were lessons in how the groups should act in an assassination attempt or when some target is bombed?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Those lessons were on the security aspects an individual should follow in his general conduct.
[Presenter] Give me an example.
['Abd-al-Ghani] For example, when you want to hold a telephone contact with someone, you should take particular security precautions so that neither the government nor any other side can know about it.
[Presenter] They must use some code or symbols?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, a particular code, so that no one can catch on, obtain information, learn the telephone number, and things like that.
[Presenter] All these, of course, are illegal activities. A person does not hide things unless he is engaged in illegal work. Did you have training in high-tech communication equipment?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I hear that they use sophisticated things but all I saw was a fax machine.
[Presenter] The fax is an old machine.
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, it is old. But for me it is not. ['Abd- al-Ghani laughs]
[Presenter] Were there other things to train in, like bombing something or other things?
['Abd-al-Ghani] She [the other presenter] was asking about communications. Bombing is different.
[Presenter] From communications we move on to training. Was there any military training, not necessarily for you personally, as you were trained in Afghanistan, but for the other groups in the camp?
['Abd-al-Ghani] There were theoretical lessons in bombing, like how to use the remote control system.
[Presenter] Was there training in the manufacture of explosives?
['Abd-al-Ghani] No, there was no bomb-making; there were no explosives there. All the lessons in modern bombing methods were theoretical.
[Presenter] Who gave you training in this subject?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I was not trained with them, but the person who gave those lessons was called Mahfuz.
[Presenter] You do not know his full name?
['Abd-al-Ghani] No. We know only his first name.
[Presenter] What else did he train you in?
['Abd-al-Ghani] He came for two days to explain the theory of using devices and remote controls, making charges electronically using timers and alarms, booby-trapping cars, and things like that. He then left and someone else came with equipment to show people

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the practical aspects of the theory they had learned. I honestly do not remember the equipment, because it was modern electronic equipment, very small devices. The devices are assembled at a specific time and then light up electronically. The light shows that the bomb is active. There were other things I could not learn because I was busy preparing to travel. I just heard about those things or saw some writing on the board...

[Presenter interrupts] Like what?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Like, for example, a drawing of an electric circuit. I looked and wondered what it was.

[Presenter] Did any leaders of the Islamic Group visit the camp? I wish you could give us some names.

['Abd-al-Ghani] I used to see Abu-Hazim, alias Mustafa Ibrahim; Mustafa Hamzah; Mahfuz; Abu-'Asim; and someone called Sadir. These are the ones I remember. I forget names easily.

[Presenter] Rabi', when did you find out for sure that you were not going to Bosnia-Herzegovina? How long after your arrival in Sudan did you know that there was going to be no trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina?

['Abd-al-Ghani] About eight months after my arrival.

[Presenter] Eight months! You remained eight months waiting to go to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Were you not even doing some work?

['Abd-al-Ghani] What work could I do?

[Presenter] Did you think of returning to Egypt when you knew that you were not going to Bosnia-Herzegovina?

['Abd-al-Ghani] I did, but only at the end. I tried to travel alone to Bosnia-Herzegovina. I went to see an Arab, a follower of Shaykh Usamah Bin-Ladin, to put my case to him and ask him to get me a visa to Italy or any other country from which I could move on to Bosnia-Herzegovina. My papers of course were still with the Islamic Group and I could not take them back from them.

[Presenter] You mean you were under their control?

['Abd-al-Ghani] I tried to take back my papers without success.

[Presenter] Rabi', training courses were run at the Sudanese camp in the use of the modern technology to which you have referred. I mean those small devices used for detonating explosives by remote control. Operations occurred in Egypt in which such technology was used. Did you hear about these operations? Did you and the other members talk among yourselves about them? Did you discuss them with Mustafa Hamzah, the group leader?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Meetings took place to discuss both personal and public affairs. He used to pick members, ordinary members of the groups like us, and talk with them. What was said during the meetings was not revealed to others. Some of the public issues he discussed pertained to operations against banks for example. He used to explain why they attacked banks. He would say those banks employed usury and must be...

[Presenter interrupts] Does this mean you knew about the attacks on the banks?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, we knew.

[Presenter] Did the groups that carried out those operations in Egypt move out of Sudan?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes.

[Presenter] Tell me about any operation that was carried out while you were in Sudan, that is, when you learned that one group was going to Egypt to blow up a target.

['Abd-al-Ghani] No one planning an operation would reveal any information about his target.

[Presenter] All you noticed was that one group simply vanished from the place.

['Abd-al-Ghani] That is right; one group would vanish but we would not know its destination.

[Presenter] But you would realize that an operation was going to be carried out?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The group could be going to any country or we would later hear that its members had been killed in Egypt. Other groups would go off, then return without our knowing where they had been.

[Presenter] You would know from the results later on?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, we would know from the results. We would hear for example that so-and-so had been arrested, killed, et cetera.

[Presenter] As for the group that participated in the Addis Ababa incident, the members of which were with you in the camp, do you know any of them?

['Abd-al-Ghani] I know two who were leaders of the group. One of them is called 'Umar and there is a second, Fathi.

[Presenter] Were they training officers in the camp?

['Abd-al-Ghani] They were prominent members of the Islamic Group but not camp leaders. They were among those people who used to visit the camp and then leave.

[Presenter] You recognized them when you saw their photos?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, I recognized them when I saw their photos in the newspapers.

[Presenter] Rabi', when did you receive the order to leave the camp and carry out operations inside Egypt? How many members were in your group?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We were six. In view of my circumstances... [pauses] I tried to leave the camp and go my own way but I failed. Finally I found an opportunity to go to Egypt. You know, among one's family and people in Egypt one can live quietly without pressure. No one humiliates you or dictates to you.

[Presenter] Are you saying that they used to humiliate you there?

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['Abd-al-Ghani] No, not humiliation.
[Presenter] What then?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I was not convinced of the need to blow up targets or kill people.
[Presenter] Why then did you not return to Egypt alone if you wished to turn yourself in or repent? As you know, the Interior Ministry left the door open to those who wished to do so. Why did you not return alone to Egypt? You returned as part of a group dispatched by Sudan.
['Abd-al-Ghani] It is difficult to return alone from Sudan. I had no papers. Even if I had my papers, what would be the consequences of my solitary return? One must calculate things carefully. If I had left the others and returned alone, I could not have known what my fate here would be. Even if I repented, what would my fate, my future be?
[Presenter] You were part of a six-member group that came here to Cairo with instructions to carry out a mission. What was the mission?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I was told that the six were going back to Egypt to carry out jihad. This is what I was told. As for me personally...
[Presenter interrupts] You were returning to Egypt to carry out jihad?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes.
[Presenter] To do what exactly?
['Abd-al-Ghani] We were told it was jihad against the ruling regime to implement Islamic shari'ah, release the detainees, and so on. They used to tell us a lot of things to exhort the members to ...
[Presenter interrupts] Did this kind of talk convince you?
['Abd-al-Ghani] If I had been convinced of it, I would not have tried to leave them.
[Presenter] Were you convinced that it was right to carry out attacks against the country and tourist areas?
['Abd-al-Ghani] No, of course I was not convinced. I believe the end does not justify the means. Any action leading to a good end must also...
[Presenter interrupts] What was the mission you came to Cairo to carry out?
['Abd-al-Ghani] As I told you, the task was the same in every case, to carry out operations against the Egyptian Government.
[Presenter] What kind of operations?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Assassinating the president, assassinating ministers, blowing up banks, attacking tourist targets, attacking foreigners in Egypt, including Americans, Russians, and other foreign nationals. The operations also included attacking jails and releasing prisoners. These were the most important tasks.
[Presenter] So this was the mission of the six-member group?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes.
[Presenter] You were going to carry out all these actions?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes.
[Presenter] What training were you given to carry out these operations?
['Abd-al-Ghani] We received intensive training in Afghanistan.
[Presenter] But you were given your instructions in Sudan.
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, the instructions were given to the groups in the country that was the starting point of their mission: in Sudan or some other country.
[Presenter] Did each member's orders depend on the type of training he received in Afghanistan? In Sudan, of course, the roles were distributed.
['Abd-al-Ghani] As you know, people have different abilities. Each member of the group would be given a different task.
[Presenter] How?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Some are explosives experts, some are proficient in communications.
[Presenter] Who decided which member got which task?
['Abd-al-Ghani] To tell you the truth this did not happen in front of me.
[Presenter] How did you enter Egypt?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Via mountainous routes from Sudan to Egypt.
[Presenter] Not the official border crossing?
['Abd-al-Ghani] I did not see any in front of me...
[Presenter interrupts] No, no. You knew of course what route you used.
['Abd-al-Ghani] We traveled about 1,000 km. I did not know the way beforehand.
[Presenter] You had some people with you who knew the way?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, yes, I was not alone.
[Presenter] Did you have your passport?
['Abd-al-Ghani] No.
[Presenter] Therefore you entered the country without a passport?
['Abd-al-Ghani] Without a passport, yes.
[Presenter] Did you know that there was a warrant for your arrest?
['Abd-al-Ghani] No, I did not know.
[Presenter] Then why were you afraid to use the official way to return to Egypt? You came knowing that you were instructed to carry out an operation?
['Abd-al-Ghani] If I could have acted freely and had my passport with me, I would not have entered by this route. I would have flown back to Egypt.
[Presenter] What hardships did you face on this route?
['Abd-al-Ghani] The terrain was difficult.

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[Presenter] Who helped you? I want to know who helped you to enter the country.
['Abd-al-Ghani] We had two Sudanese drivers with us. They, of course, knew the way well.

Bank Official: No Plan To Liquidate Public Banks

NC1608204195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Aziz, chairman of the board of directors of the National Bank of Egypt and head of the Arab and Egyptian Banks' Union, has stated that Egyptian banks will contribute toward financing Egyptian exports during the second stage of the economic liberalization process. He pointed out that this role is no less important than the role of the banks in the first stage, when they contributed to liberating exchange and interest rates and covering part of the public debt.

In his interview with the weekly French-language newspaper, AL-AHRAM HEBDO, he discussed changes in the Egyptian banking system and its role in modernizing the economy in Egypt. [passage omitted]

In his comments on a rumor regarding the liquidation of public sector banks by selling or privatizing them after liquidating the mixed sector banks, he said the economy is being liberalized but this policy does not mean the public sector banks will be sold off. He added that the trend will be to increase the capital of these banks while including investors from the private sector on their board of directors. He pointed out that the proportion of these members will not exceed a third. [passage omitted]

Regarding his feelings about some foreign banks closing their branches in Cairo this year, Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Aziz said he does not believe this is worrying and described it as a sign of a healthy economy and a healthy Egyptian banking system to which credibility has been restored after economic reform. He said that Egypt now has a surplus of liberated currency, contrary to the way things were 10 years ago.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM HEBDO today the head of the Egyptian Banks' Union said the Egyptian public sector banks became subsidiaries to the foreign banks and have now become masters of affairs on the banking level, leading to a decrease in the profits of the foreign banks, thus leading to their departure.

He added that despite all of this, we welcome every foreign bank that can bear the burden of competition. [passage omitted]

Libya

Diplomatic Travel Outside Tripoli Banned

NC1708155695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-AHRAM correspondent in Libya has learned that Libya has imposed new restrictions on embassies, all diplomatic missions, and consulates accredited to that country banning travel outside Tripoli without a permit.

The People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation and the General People's Committee for Unity have passed on to embassies printed applications for permits to move within Tripoli [as published]. The permit, if granted, is valid for one time only and does not give its holder the right to enter banned areas or areas where travel is regulated.

Leader on U.S. Acts Against Iraq, Turkey's Role

LD1708225495 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1949 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Address by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at meeting with representatives of Turkish companies on 17 August; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God. First, [words indistinct] I would like to express my appreciation and the appreciation of your Libyan brothers for the efforts that you have exerted with us in past years. We consider you to be in your second homeland among your brothers. [passage omitted]

There is not really any bilateral problem between Turkey and Libya.

But there is another dangerous problem which concerns both Libya and Turkey. This problem might have repercussions on the strong Libyan-Turkish relations. I am meeting you today because this problem might affect you directly.

You know that the United States is practicing official terrorism against the Arab peoples and threatens directly the fraternal Iraqi people. At this moment, it is moving its aircraft carriers and naval units and is flexing its muscles inside the Arab homeland in the Red Sea [word indistinct] Arab sea from all sides.

It is feared our sister Turkey will be used in the operation of terrorizing and threatening the Iraqi people for a second time, as it was used in the Gulf war.

Regrettably, NATO uses our sister Turkey [word indistinct] to carry out air raids against Iraq and has been able through Turkey to divide Iraqi territory among Kurds and non-Kurds, as is the case now.

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Now, we do not dismiss the idea that the United States will once again use our sister Turkey in the operation of threatening and terrorizing — official terrorism — it is practicing now against the peoples of the Arab nation, particularly the Iraqi people.

At the same time, the United States is, according to secret documents available to us, inciting Turkey against Saudi Arabia and the Islamic shari'ah and putting pressure against Saudi Arabia in favor of the Hashemite family in Jordan.

The American naval or military assets are currently carrying out an action to strengthen the condition of the tottering Hashemite throne in Jordan.

It is well-known that the Hashemite family is a foe of the Saudi family. Mobilizing Turkey now against Saudi Arabia is parallel to the mobilization of the fleets, both of which are for the benefit of the Hashemite family in Jordan. Our sister Turkey should not enter this inter-Arab conflict for the sake of the United States.

It is feared that Turkey will be used once more in these circumstances to threaten and terrify the Iraqi people, and impose other bad conditions — other than the current bad conditions — new bad conditions on the Iraqi people at a time when there is no direct problem between the Iraqi people and its brother, the Turkish people.

Everything that is taking place is on orders from the United States. God forbid if our sister Turkey did this against Iraq, this would immediately reflect on the warm relations between Libya and Turkey. At this time, Iraq would be considered incapable of defending itself. We are responsible for defending the Arab homeland and pan-Arabism. Defending the Iraqi people and Iraq's territory is for us self-defense. We are neither talking about Saddam, nor about the government in Iraq, because the presence of these governments and individuals is temporary. We are talking about the Iraqi people, who are an Arab people, and the land of Iraq, which is an Arab land.

We are responsible for defending the Arab homeland and Arab nationalism. We may not possess intercontinental missiles or military capabilities like the United States, but we will defend Arab nationalism with all our efforts. [passage omitted]

There are 88 Turkish companies in Libya. There are investments and the volume of business of these companies is $7 billion. There are nearly 700 projects being implemented by the 88 Turkish companies. This investment presence and very large number of companies can be found only between Turkey and Libya, never between any two other states in the whole world. [passage omitted]

This is the weapon Libya possesses. Added to this are Libya's investments in imports from Turkey, which create job opportunities in Turkey for thousands of Turkish workers, companies, and factories.

This is the weapon Libya possesses. It is stronger than the U.S. aircraft carriers and missiles, by which the secretary of defense yesterday threatened to hit the surrendered Iraq, which has no power and demonstrates no hostile actions. [passage omitted]

If fraternal Turkey is content to participate in the campaign of intimidation and official terrorism that the United States is waging today against the Iraqi people and the peoples of the Arab nation, there will certainly be an infamous loss for our sister Turkey in the Libyan arena. I am telling you now that I feel great sorrow and regret, but I am obliged to do this. The ball is now in the court of our sister Turkey.

I repeat once again that I feel every affection and appreciation for our sister Prime Minister Tansu Ciller our brother President Suleyman Demirel. [passage omitted]

We made sacrifices, were patient, and exercised the highest levels of self-restraint when the West used our sister Turkey to divide and hit Iraq, and slaughter the Kurdish people.

Despite that, we were all against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, but the issue now is not Kuwait. The issue now is a direct threat against the Arab nation, and official terrorism against and intimidation of the Iraqi people and the peoples of the Arab nation before the world, [?as exemplified] by this revelry in the Red Sea with the help of the U.S.'s vile lackeys and agents in the region.

We endured this unreasonable treatment of the Kurds, whereby the Kurds in Iraq are supported, Iraq is dismembered, and the Kurds given the right to self-rule, or even independence in Iraq, while the Kurds in Turkey are not given any of these rights.

Why do the Kurds have a right in Iraq, and no right in Turkey, particularly since Turkey was a partner in the situation in which the Kurds have found themselves in northern Iraq?

Thus, it is not a right for the Kurds, but spite for the Arabs, because the Kurds in Iraq lie in the Arab world. Therefore it is spite for the Arab homeland and the Arab nation, and not a bias in favor of the Kurds.

As much as the Kurds have the right in Iraq, they should also have the right in Turkey. We have been patient

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regarding this unreasonable treatment of Kurds as Kurds are backed and Iraq's ties are cut off and Kurds have the right to self-rule or even independence in Iraq, whereas the Kurds in Turkey have none of these rights. Why do Kurds have rights in Iraq but not in Turkey? Turkey was particularly an accomplice in the situation of Kurds in northern Iraq.

Thus, the issue is not of rights for Kurds but defiance of the Arabs because the Kurds in Iraq are in the Arab world. It is thus a defiance of the Arab world and nation and is not a bias toward the Kurds.

My position is firm and my history on the issue of the Kurdish nation is now very clear. This is a sister nation that is a neighbor of the Turkish nation, the Arab nation, and the Persian nation. The Kurdish nation is a sister of these three neighboring Islamic nations. The Kurdish nation has the right to unity and independence under the sun.

I think that this is implementation of the hostile U.S. policy to the Arab nation, in which it has used Turkey, and not support for the Kurdish cause. Now we are using the weapons that we have available to us to defend Arab nationalism.

Here is an example: There is a well-known British company called the Bedford Company. I remember a certain British lord. This company declared that it was bankrupt and completely failed financially because of Libya's refusal to complete a deal with it for Bedford vehicles. This lord came to Libya many times and cried to save the Bedford Company by concluding this deal, but we refused, because Britain was taking part in the confrontation against us in the Lockerbie issue. We pointed out to this lord that as long as your government and people were hostile to us and confront us in the Lockerbie issue with the United States and France, we can never conclude a deal with a British company. He cried, but the crying did not intercede for him, and this company collapsed and ended. The survival of that company hinged on that deal with Libya.

This is an example of the weapons available to us with which we defend ourselves. The U.S. companies have lost 5 billion [currency not specified] because of the U.S. boycott of Libya. In this case, I believe that the weapons we use to defend our rights are stronger than the revelry of America's fleets and the threat of its intercontinental missiles.

I hope that this will be a clear cordial message, and may God's peace and blessing be on you.

Mauritania

New Political Party To Meet 17 Aug

AB1708194495 London BBC World Service in English 0615 GMT 17 Aug 95

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Rick Wells]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Mauritania, a new political party is to meet in Nouakchott today with the aim of laying down its fundamental principles and objectives. Since the advent of party politics in 1991, opposition parties in Mauritania haven't been particularly successful. The governing Republican Democratic and Social Party of President Ould Taya has a virtual monopoly on power in both houses of Parliament. On the line to Nouakchott, I asked our Senegal reporter, Joseph Winter, who is currently in Mauritania, what this new party was all about:

[Begin recording] [Winter] The new party is called Action for Change and it's a grouping of three existing political movements. The first one is El-Hur which represents the descendants of slaves called the Haratines in Mauritania who are widely believed to be the largest single grouping of Mauritanians, about 45-percent of the population. That's a movement which has existed since 1978. The second political movement is called the Comite de Crise, Crisis Committee, which generally represents the Black African, non-Arabic-speaking populations of the south of Mauritania; and then the third political formation is already a recognized political party, PCDM [Mauritanian Center-Democratic Party], the Mauritanian party of the democratic center and that's led by Moulaye Mohamed.

[Wells] The aim, I gather, is that this party hopes to get registered fairly soon. Given that one of these groups forming the new party represents the black African community from the south and another the descendants of slaves, how likely is it that they may get this official registration?

[Winter] Well, there is nothing clear yet. There is talk that it will be refused but the people involved seem to have got round that by inviting Moulaye Mohamed, who is a White Arabic-speaking Moor, to be part of their group so if anyone says that you are a racially, ethnic-based party and therefore not allowed to register according to the Constitution, they can say that well, look, we represent all three groups of the Mauritanian population.

[Wells] Why do you think they've chosen this time to try and launch a new party?

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[Winter] It's a very interesting time for the black African populations because it seems that one of their essential demands is that the deportees — the people, the Mauritanians who were deported into Senegal in the early 90's — will soon be coming back to Mauritania and there was also a recent trip by the Mauritanian president. Ould Taya recently went on an official trip to the south of Mauritania and when he was there he was warmly received by the black African population and so maybe it's a way of redynamizing, you know, getting some more credibility into the opposition which has been criticized for not really doing very much for a long time.

[Wells] From the outside, at least, it seems that opposition politics in Mauritanian is a fairly marginalized business. They don't seem to have a great deal of influence. Is there any sign that the virtual monopoly that the ruling PRDS [Democratic and Social Republican Party] has might weaken at all or be in some way threatened by this new grouping?

[Winter] Well, this new grouping, I met one of the founding members, Tidiane Koita, and he told me that it would immediately, as soon as it was recognized, join a recently formed opposition coalition and further would gather together all the opposition movements under one wide coalition. However, the general Mauritanian public opinion is not very optimistic about the opposition politicians, saying that they seem to be rather self-interested and power-hungry. And a very wide coalition was formed previously for the last presidential elections in 1991 but as soon as the elections were finished, which led to the defeat by their candidate Ahmed Ould Daddah, everybody split up into their own little parties, each wanting to be their own leader and so it's far from certain that this will constitute a serious threat to the PRDS. [end recording]

Sudan

President Abolishes Laws Contradicting Decree

EA1708201795 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Republic Lieutenant General PSC [Passed Staff College] 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir signed a decree abolishing a number of laws which may contradict with the recently ratified Constitutional Decree No. 12.

In all, 18 laws have been abolished. President al-Bashir pointed out that those laws deal with the state powers and authorities at the federal system and trans-legislation [as heard] to the state legislative councils. Justice Minister and Attorney General 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddi had detailed on the work and efforts of the ministry in working out the amendments and articles. He maintained that the Walis [state governors] should put before their respective councils those provisional decrees for ratification.

Returning Opposition Leader Meets Vice President

EA1708171295 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In his first meeting since his return to the homeland with the first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, at his office at the Republican palace today, retired General al-Hadi Bushra said that the current political circumstances which the country is witnessing necessitate more solidarity and cooperation for protecting the country's unity and land.

This as well as protecting it from threats, in addition to strengthening the Islamic shari'ah and facilitating means of living for all Sudanese citizens. [sentence as received] Retired Gen. Bushra affirmed the necessity of exerting the utmost efforts for unifying the Sudanese nation, adding that his meeting with the first vice president of the Republic represented the start of a serious intention to work for integration of efforts.

Group Links Regime to Addis Ababa Attempt

NC1808074595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mahjub al-Tijani, head of the Sudanese Human Rights Organization, has said the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime is isolated and that it does not serve the interests of the Sudanese people.

Al-Tijani added that this regime has turned Sudan into a pit of terrorism in the absence of freedom and democracy. He stressed that the countries and people of the region should join efforts with the Sudanese people, particularly since terrorism of all types and forms has increased.

He said the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime was involved in the sinful attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

Al-Tijani praised President Husni Mubarak for taking care of the Sudanese nationals living in Egypt.

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Saudi Arabia

Further on Jordanian Foreign Minister's Visit

Concerned About Iraqi Unity

MM1808091895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab: "Prince 'Abdallah Receives Jordanian Foreign Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah — Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and head of the National Guard, received Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti at the Royal Court in al-Salam Palace yesterday. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he was carrying anything for the Saudi leadership regarding the defection to Jordan of Staff General Husayn Kamil, Iraqi industry minister and chairman of the Industrialization Organization, al-Kabariti pointed out that this issue will be among the issues to be discussed with Saudi officials. He added: That event has its meanings and complications, and we want to discuss it with brother Saudi officials. Because what happens in any Arab state eventually affects us in one way or another; the Arab world is a vital environment for our two countries; pan-Arab security is an integral part of our national security; and we certainly do care about Iraq's Arabism, unity, and territorial integrity.

It is necessary for us to focus on Iraq's Arab sovereignty, which might be threatened as a result of the tragedy that the Iraqi people are experiencing and where complications could cause the fragmentation of Iraqi unity and territory. We will be discussing all these matters and the effects, in addition to the possibility of establishing a strategy that safeguards Iraq's unity and territorial integrity. [passage omitted]

Asked whether the Saudi ambassador's return to Amman means that the ice covering Saudi-Jordanian relations has melted, the Jordanian minister said: The warmth has returned to Saudi-Jordanian relations; they are now very warm.

On the contacts held between him and the Kuwaiti foreign minister, al-Kabariti said: My contacts with him are continuing, and our relations are now characterized by serious dialogues between me and him. We do not deny that Kuwaiti feelings during and after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait continue to influence Kuwaiti public opinion. We are seeking to assure the government and people in Kuwait that Jordan and the Jordanians have always supported Kuwait's independence and rights as regards its borders and territory, in addition to the need for the release of all Kuwaiti missing persons and prisoners.

Asked whether he believes that Jordan is safe from any Iraqi attempts to undermine its security following Husayn Kamil's defection, the Jordanian foreign minister said: Actually Jordanian security is something that those responsible for it must take care of. I hope that this incident will have no effect on Jordanian security. But in any event I stress that Jordan will never allow any quarter, organization, or regime to threaten Jordan's security. On the reasons and motives for Jordan's request for U.S. help and support against any threats, al-Kabariti said: Jordan did not seek U.S. help. The telephone conversation that took place between King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton was intended to put him in the picture as regards Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan. President Clinton expressed the U.S. position in his own fashion.

Al-Kabariti Talks 'Important'

JN1708171795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said that relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia have returned to the required level. He added: We are aspiring for continued coordination and fruitful cooperation in all fields between our two sisterly countries.

In statements to the Jordanian News Agency, Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, who was at hand to bid farewell to Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti upon leaving Jeddah today, described al-Kabariti's talks and his meetings with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz yesterday as important and useful, saying they were held amid a positive and good atmosphere.

On inter-Arab relations, he said that his country and its leadership hope that inter-Arab relations will rise to the required level. He stressed that Arab solidarity is the best way to achieve Arab aspirations since this is a basic pillar and element in the policy and aspirations of the custodian of the two holy mosques. He said: This issue was discussed yesterday and the two countries can play an important role within this framework.

On the possibility of holding a Jordanian-Saudi summit in the near future, he said: I do not see anything that obstructs holding this summit. On another level, he added, Mr. al-Kabariti invited me to visit Jordan and I will respond to this invitation as soon as possible.

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He said that 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sudayri, appointed Saudi ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, will shortly arrive in Amman as ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after getting the approval of the Jordanian Government.

Asked about the economic summit in Amman and Saudi participation in it, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal confirmed Saudi Arabia's participation in this summit.

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INA Denies U.S. Statement on Iraqi Troop Movements

JN1808103095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA) — The political editor of the Iraqi News Agency [INA] has said that the American story on the movement of the Iraqi forces toward the north five weeks ago and toward the south two weeks ago is a weak story.

Commenting on a statement by the U.S. Defense Department yesterday that five weeks ago it monitored unusual Iraqi movements inside Iraq, the INA political editor said: Even if we assume that the U.S. story is correct, then why did the U.S. Administration not express its concern then?

The INA political editor added: The U.S. Administration fabricates unfounded stories to support its deployment in the Gulf and terrorize the al-Sabah family.

The INA political editor said that this story is similar to the story fabricated by traitor Husayn Kamil after his defection when he said that Republican Guard forces are deployed in and around Baghdad. Arab and foreign correspondents in Baghdad have confirmed that this story is not true and have said that life is going on normally in Baghdad.

The U.S. Defense Department yesterday said that five weeks ago it monitored unusual military movements inside Iraq that call for attention but that these movements do not call for a state of alert in the U.S. forces.

The U.S. Defense Department said its reaction to these movements was to send equipment and supplies to the Gulf region by ships, in addition to the U.S. servicemen who are in Kuwait and who total 27,000.

U.S. Defense Department officials said they will not send any forces from the United States at present.

When queried on where the Iraqi troops they monitored five weeks ago were heading, the department officials said that they were heading northward. They added that the troops monitored two weeks ago were heading southward, toward Kuwait, but not close to the borders.

They went on to say that there is no linkage between the Iraqi troop movements and the defection of two Iraqis several days ago.

As for the U.S. State Department spokesman, he claimed that the Iraqi troops were heading toward Kuwait. Hence, the United States wants to take precautionary measures to face any Iraqi buildup near the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, he noted.

News reports from Kuwait said that a U.S. military delegation led by General James Ford, chief of the U.S. Central Command, met with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah last night to reassure him that the United States will support the al-Sabah family in the face of the new Iraqi threat.

In New York, diplomatic sources have said that the new U.S. announcement on Iraqi troop movements is part of a media and psychological campaign against Iraq, and that there is no Iraqi threat against Kuwait.

MKO Forces Reportedly Maintain Security in Baghdad

NC1708170495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi opposition sources have stated that the ruling regime in Baghdad has entrusted the Iranian Mojahedin-E-Khalq Organization [MKO] and [words indistinct] with maintaining security in parts of Baghdad. This measure comes in anticipation of outbreaks of hostility against the regime following the recent developments in Iraq and the arrest campaign launched by the regime against those suspected of opposing Saddam.

The same sources noted that MKO forces have taken up positions in key areas in Baghdad and that Saddam has begun to give greater trust to these forces than to his special forces.

Citizens Told To Report Financial Ties to 'Traitors'

JN1708113995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)— The Ministry of Interior has called on citizens and others inside and outside Iraq to report all forms of financial or commercial relations, contributions or partnerships, or any working relationship of financial or commercial nature with the following traitors or their families—father, mother, brothers, spouses, and children: Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam Kamil Hasan, Hakim Kamil Hasan, 'Izz-al-Din Muhammad Hasan, Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan, and Jasim Muhammad Hasan.

In a statement today, the ministry said those concerned should supply the required information, giving the full name and address within 10 days as of this statement, to the interior minister's office directly or by telephone No. 8869743 rpt 8869743 if in Iraq, and within 20 days to the Iraqi Embassies or Iraqi interest sections, or the above-mentioned telephone, if outside Iraq.

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The statement guaranteed the rights acquired as a result of all forms of financial or commercial ties those concerned had with the aforesaid traitors or their families if they submit whatever could prove such rights in accordance with the regulations in force.

The statement added that whoever refrains from submitting the information he has or whoever submits insufficient or incorrect information regarding the financial or commercial transactions he maintained with the aforesaid traitors or their families will be subject to legal accountability and referred to special courts so that he may receive just punishment. Moreover, he will be held accountable for any acts constituting economic sabotage in war circumstances that might have resulted from these transactions.

Family Turmoil Said To Begin at 'Stormy Supper'

MM1708123195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Story of Stormy Supper at Iraqi President's Dinner Table"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lonon, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, exclusive — A reliable source revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday exciting details about what happened in the few hours that preceded the defection to Jordan of General Husayn Kamil and his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamil, together with their wives (daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn) and a large number of companions.

The reliable source said that the flight of Gen. Husayn Kamil and his brother Col. Saddam Kamil occurred in the wake of an enlarged family meeting around President Saddam Husayn's dinner table on the evening of Monday 7 August 1995 in his house in Tikrit.

During the supper, to which President Saddam invited senior members of the family, a noisy discussion took place about who is responsible for the difficult conditions Iraq is experiencing. The discussion included a reference to practices that occurred in the wake of the invasion of Kuwait, with a special pause at the reasons that prompted the United States not to respond to the Iraqi regime's wish to initiate a dialogue leading to the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq.

The striking thing was that the Iraqi president gave the green light for a frank discussion. And that it was Watban, the interior minister relieved of his post and one of the three brothers, who started the discussion. He spoke in a frank manner that surprised those present. In particular, he said to President Saddam: "As you have started a process of change that included me and the defense minister (meaning 'Ali Hasan al-Majid), what the Iraqis are expecting from you is to continue the change process."

According to the source, Watban began to list incidents from which those present understood that he was demanding that President Saddam relieve Gen. Husayn Kamil of his post and restrict the role played by 'Udayy, the president's son.

At this point a quarrel took place because two of those present tried to stop the speaker. But Saddam ordered them to leave the meeting, but in a friendly manner. President Saddam listened to some comments from key members of the family before bidding farewell to his guests, who went to their houses in Tikrit.

President Saddam had concluded from what went on at the meeting and from some of the speakers' statements that matters might not end on a good note. So he immediately went to the Republican Guard headquarters, where he spent a long time with the Guard's chief, Major General Mustafa Kamal, who is married to Husayn Kamil's niece. With this sudden visit President Saddam forestalled any potential comments or contacts between his son-in-law, Husayn Kamil, and the Republican Guard chief.

During the meeting Maj. Gen. Mustafa Kamal issued orders to Republican Guard troops, including an order to intervene to halt a clash that had occurred near Watban's house. The clash occurred the minute Watban arrived at his house. He noticed that his house was besieged and that the attackers were trying to disarm his guards. Then they told him that they were there to put him under house arrest on orders from above. They added that the orders had been issued by 'Udayy and Husayn Kamil.

Watban left no room for compromise and responded immediately and severely. So they fired shots in his direction. He personally replied by opening fire, followed by his guards and some of his sons. The shoot-out resulted in the killing of two attackers and two of Watban's guards, in addition to a number of wounded on both sides.

Then it became clear that Watban himself had sustained serious wounds on the left side of the shoulder right down to the leg. At first he was treated in a hospital belonging to the presidency in Tikrit. Then he was moved quickly to the Ibn-Sina Hospital in Baghdad, where he was placed under tight security. He spent three days under close medical supervision before making a considerable recovery. Some of his brothers tried to send him abroad for treatment, but doctors said it was not advisable to do so before his condition improved. Watban is still receiving treatment at the hospital If he is not going to be sent abroad for treatment, he is expected

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to be seen in Baghdad by a foreign specialist. Concern for his life receded on the third day of his treatment.

According to the source, throughout the day on Tuesday, 8 August, President Saddam asked about his son-in-law, Husayn Kamil. The reply was that he could not be found at home or at the ministerial offices frequented by him. President Saddam expressed his surprise and asked the staff of his office to check with the Iraqi-Jordanian border checkpoint. So it was by chance that the staff were told that an official convoy had crossed the border into Jordan. Those left behind in the houses of the two sons-in-law, Husayn Kamil and Saddam Kamil, were interrogated. And so were their aides and those in charge of the border checkpoint.

The following facts emerged:

First, the convoy consisted of 35 cars and 15 trucks.

Second, those in charge of the border checkpoint did not check the convoy thoroughly, having been told that senior officials were in the cars. Checkpoint officials saluted the convoy, which crossed the border in less than 15 minutes.

Third, servants in the houses of the two sons-in-law said that the two families left, taking some necessities with them, immediately after midnight on Monday (that is, after the stormy supper). They had started to pack some of their belongings two months earlier.

Fourth, members of the two families (of Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam) said that they were "on a brief visit and will return within a week."

Fifth, having been notified of the official convoy's crossing of the border into Jordan, the Republican Palace made contacts with the security authorities in Jordan. At first, Jordanian officials denied any knowledge of the matter, but later they pointed out that the large convoy had indeed crossed the border and that those who had crossed were in the care of King Husayn.

Sixth, President Saddam immediately assigned his son 'Udayy to head for Amman to inquire into the matter, but without giving him any official message. He did not expect the defection to Jordan of his two sons-in-law to be announced so quickly.

But Jordan had already announced the news while 'Udayy was on his way to Amman. With the announcement the matter reached the point of no return.

Concluding, the source said: That is what happened, and the rest of the story became public. [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes U.S. Handling of Defections

JN1708115295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0634 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has criticized the U.S. Administration's conduct toward Iraq, its reactions to Iraq-related developments, the imbalanced U.S. handling of world events, and the reluctant, confused, and unsophisticated U.S. foreign policy.

In an editorial today entitled "The United States and Imbalanced Handling of Events," the paper says: In its handling of world events here and there, the U.S. Administration has lagged behind; and this does not befit the prestige of a superpower. The U.S. Administration has failed to handle the Bosnia crisis properly. Only a few days ago, it appeared as the paragon of shortsightedness and reckless political and diplomatic inter-state conduct when it mobilized its media, aircraft carriers, intelligence services, and president against Iraq.

The paper wonders: Is it permissible for a superpower to be lightheaded and show imbalance in its handling of an individual ordinary episode, of which there have been similar cases in the past, and which could happen in the future anywhere in the world? Is it permissible for the United States, which professes to be a country of scientific advancement that upholds principles and human rights, to adopt people who are backward and failed by all ethical standards, to nurture them, and give them support to the extent of threatening aggression against Iraq?

The paper adds: We are aware of the reasons behind the U.S. imbalance in handling this episode, chief among which are hesitation, ignorance, and confusion, which are the hallmark of the U.S. foreign policy. All these factors, coupled with the imbalanced U.S. decisionmaking process, have produced thoughtless and uncalculated reactions, as evidenced in the U.S. handling of the Bosnia, Somalia, and the DPRK crises.

The paper urges U.S. policymakers and the suspicious regimes of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to be aware of an indisputable fact that held out in the face of all challenges; namely, that the experiment of Iraq and its legendary steadfastness will emerge firmer, stronger, and more powerful.

The paper concludes by saying: It is high time the U.S. Administration reconsidered its calculations toward Iraq, and learned from its failed experiences that the revolution spearheaded by Saddam Husayn has triumphed and forged ahead, and is here to stay, and that addressing facts is better than following mirages.

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UN's Ekeus Arrives in Baghdad on Official Visit Makes Statement

JN1708170895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, arrived in Baghdad at noon today on a visit to Iraq that will last several days.

Soon after his arrival, Ekeus told reporters that he had come to Iraq this time at an invitation from the Iraqi Government to exchange views with the Iraqi sides.

He added that his current visit to Iraq is the most important one in view of the new information he will obtain from the Iraqi side.

He also said that he would hold talks with several Iraqi officials to speed up efforts to solve problems in the biological warfare weapons area.

Says Iraq 'Compromised' Credibility

NC1708152995 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 17 (AFP)—Iraq has compromised its credibility by concealing parts of its weapons programme from United Nations inspectors over the past few years, UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said Thursday [17 August].

Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, was here to meet government officials who have offered to reveal secrets on weapons which his commission is charged with destroying.

"Iraq has a credibility problem after having concealed for so many years important information and this concealment has delayed the work for us at the corresponding time," said Ekeus.

The UN's chief weapons inspector, accompanied by 10 experts on nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic arms, said his team would want to verify all information given to it by the authorities here.

Iraq on Sunday invited Ekeus to come "urgently" to Baghdad to discuss information which it claimed was withheld by General Husayn Kamil Hasan, architect of the country's advanced weapons programme who defected to Jordan on August 8.

Ekeus said he would meet Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, the minister in charge of negotiations with UNSCOM, later Thursday and would stay in Baghdad as long as was necessary to complete his mission.

He stressed he had not closed the file on any aspect of Iraq's weapons programme. "We have not closed any issues. We have rather stated that, with regard to some items, there are outstanding problems but we don't see them as constituting threats to the region.

"And that has been, in principle, accepted by the (UN) Security Council. We have an agreement, which we value very much, with the Iraqi government, namely that we will continue to explore and investigate those outstanding issues," he added.

Ekeus said there were important question marks remaining over Iraq's nuclear, chemical and missile programmes.

But he said the most important outstanding matter was Iraq's biological weapons programme, about which Baghdad said it had given full details to Ekeus in a declaration on August 4.

"We have studied that declaration and we have seen some shortcomings, and we hope to fill those gaps, which are very important gaps," he said.

Ekeus refused to say whether he had met and obtained information from Hasan, Iraq's former industry minister who fled Baghdad with his brother and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam Husayn.

The UN in New York indicated that Ekeus would meet Hasan in Amman after his visit to Baghdad but the former Swedish diplomat said: "I don't comment on these contacts at all.

"All I can say is that I know General Husayn Kamil Hasan and I know he has a very considerable knowledge about Iraq's programmes."

Before his flight to Baghdad from Bahrain, Ekeus said a lifting of the UN embargo imposed on Iraq in 1990 after its invasion of Kuwait depended on the quality of the new information offered.

Iraq earlier insisted it had given the United Nations all the documentation it needed to certify that Baghdad had eliminated its weapons of mass destruction and so lift the crippling oil embargo.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN1708185195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1813 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met this evening with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the minister of interior affairs; Engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, oil minis-

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ter and acting director of the Military Industrialization Organization; several specialists; and Professor Zifferero, deputy chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

'First Package' of Information Received

JN1808095095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0940 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA) — Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, has declared that Iraq handed him the first package of information in the biological and nuclear fields, saying that the UN Special Commission will assess this information.

Following his meeting yesterday with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Ekeus said: We will analyze the information given to us gradually.

He pointed out that during the talks with the Iraqi side, there was a discussion of the overall situation in light of the recent events.

More on 'New' Arms Information

NC1708205995 Paris AFP in English
1942 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 17 (AFP) — Iraq provided new information Thursday [17 August] on its biological and nuclear weapons, UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said on the first day of his mission here.

Ekeus made the comments after a three-hour meeting with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Baghdad.

"We discussed the situation and analysed where we stand following the recent events, then Iraq provided its first information in two areas, biological and nuclear," Ekeus told reporters.

"The information given to me is new," he added. "We will assess this information and we will continue meeting to discuss it."

Iraq on Sunday invited Ekeus to come "urgently" to Baghdad to discuss information which it claimed was withheld by General Husayn Kamil Hasan, architect of the country's advanced weapons programme who defected to Jordan on August 8.

Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, was accompanied by 10 experts in nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic weapons on his second visit to Baghdad in two weeks.

The meeting with 'Aziz also included Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammed al-Sahhaf and Petroleum Minister General 'Amir Rashid, who also heads Iraq's weapons development agency — the Military Industrialization Organization, the official INA new agency said.

Ekeus told reporters earlier he would stay in Baghdad as long as was necessary to complete his mission.

Ekeus said Baghdad had compromised its credibility by concealing part of the programme from UN inspectors charged with eliminating its weapons of mass destruction since the end of the Gulf War in 1991.

He stressed he had not closed the file on any aspect of Iraq's weapons programme and said there were important question marks remaining over Iraq's nuclear, chemical and missile programmes.

But he said the most important outstanding matter was Iraq's biological weapons programme, about which Baghdad said it had given full details to Ekeus in a declaration on August 4.

"We have studied that declaration and we have seen some shortcomings, and we hope to fill those gaps, which are very important gaps," he said.

Before his flight to Baghdad from Bahrain, Ekeus said a lifting of the UN embargo imposed on Iraq in 1990 after its invasion of Kuwait depended on the quality of the new information offered.

Iraq had earlier insisted it had given the United Nations all the documentation it needed to certify that Baghdad had eliminated its weapons of mass destruction and so lift the crippling oil embargo.

Ekeus refused to say whether he had met and obtained information from Hasan, Iraq's former industry minister who fled Baghdad with his brother, their wives, both daughters of President Saddam Husayn, and 30 family members.

The UN in New York indicated that Ekeus would meet Hasan in Amman after his visit to Baghdad but the former Swedish diplomat said: "I don't comment on what kind of contacts we have outside the official meetings in Iraq.

"All I can say is that I know General Husayn Kamil Hasan and I know he has a very considerable knowledge about Iraq's programmes," he added.

Baghdad on Thursday ordered all Iraqis to declare any financial or business ties with the "traitors," who defected to Jordan with their families.

The Interior Ministry gave Iraqis 10 days to supply the information and warned they would be punished by special courts if they failed to do so, INA said. Iraqis living abroad were given 20 days.

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Jordan, which agreed to give Hasan asylum, denied a report in THE WASHINGTON POST on Thursday that the United States was trying to persuade it to break off economic ties with Iraq in an attempt to further isolate Saddam.

Blast Silences Talabani Radio Station in Raniyah

JN1708193095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Irbil say that Jalal Talabani's forces violated the U.S.-sponsored agreement, which was reached in Dublin, Ireland, on 11 August.

The special correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Irbil said that the propaganda campaign the Jalalists are launching against the Barzanists have not stopped yet. He added that the Jalalists have not yet released detainees and that they expelled 50 families from the city of Irbil yesterday, looted their property, and told them to go to the Salah-al-Din summer resort. They also held several persons and massed additional numbers of armed men in the city of Irbil.

In Rawandoz, the Jalalists shelled the positions of the Barzanists around the city. A report from the Raniyah District said that a huge explosion occurred at the headquarters of the Jalalists there, killing or wounding several of them and silencing their radio station that transmits from Raniyah District.

In al-Sulaymaniyah, Jalal Talabani recently met with doctors and threatened to kill them if they neglected his wounded men. Health cadres have been noticed to be neglecting wounded Jalalists to protest the behavior of Jalal Talabani and his group.

Jalal Talabani also allowed the agents of the Iranian regime in al-Sulaymaniyah to take part in auctions to purchase large real estate holdings to entrench the presence of Iran's agents in the city. Some of them threatened citizens to prevent them from taking part in auctions.

Another report from al-Sulaymaniayh said that the Jalalists executed nine people from Arabet, (Korsak), Klar, and Qarah Dagh.

Talabani Views Iraqi Defection, Dublin Talks

NC1708160495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], chaired a meeting at 1400 yesterday that was attended by the commanders and officers of the peshmerga forces in Kurdistan.

During the meeting, brother Jalal Talabani, commander in chief of the peshmerga forces, shed light on the latest developments in Kurdistan and Iraq, particularly the fissure that has begun to disintegrate the structure of the dictatorial authority in Iraq. Brother Talabani said that the defection of Husayn Kamil and his companions confirms the weakness of the dictatorial regime and the crack which has crippled its leadership structure.

Continuing, brother leader Talabani urged the peshmerga heroes to always be prepared to face any contingency that might emerge in Iraq and to confront the dictator's attacks. He said that the wish of our noble martyrs and of all the Iraqi people is to get rid of the despotism of the Baghdad dictator.

In his remarks, brother Talabani dealt with the outcome of the Dublin talks, expressing the hope that the internal fighting will be ended forever and that all potentials and energies will be mobilized for the sake of liberating all the areas of Kurdistan and Iraq.

DPK Announces New Kurdish Party Formed

NC1408135895 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Aug 95 p 8

[IRNA Report]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an announcement by the Democratic Party of Kurdistan's [DPK] Radio in Iraq, a new party, Hezb-i Arzu-yeh Esteqlal-e Kurdistan, [the party that aspires for the independence of Kurdistan] has announced its existence in northern Iraq.

The Voice of the Democratic Party monitored in Sanandaj on 1 August added: This party is comprised of a union of broad minded [rowshanfekran] and freedom-loving groups in Kurdistan and the National Freedom Party of Iraqi Kurdistan [Razgari-ye Melli].

DPK Radio did not note the founder or head of this party.

West's 'New Disinformation Campaign' Criticized

JN1808093295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA) — The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has asserted that the current anti-Iraq noise made by the enemies and Western media, led by U.S. media, is no more than a frog's croak that will soon end. Iraq's voice of constant positions shall remain higher.

In an article today, the newspaper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, observes that the new disinformation campaign against Iraq, its people, and leadership has brought nothing new. The objectives of

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this campaign are not different from the objectives of previous campaigns which were defeated and buried, thanks to Iraqi awareness and cohesion in confronting the promoters of these campaigns.

The paper adds: As usual, this new campaign depends on statements and instigations by Western and American officials and corrupt officials in some Gulf states. The purpose of these statements is to launch allegations, lies, and illusions which are repeated by those who suffer from hallucinations whenever they use up their fabrications and falsehoods.

The paper goes on: The one who carefully listens to what has been said against Iraq with premeditated harmony by all the agencies, sources, and media for more than a week, will notice a great contradiction between the stories carried by these agencies citing each other, to the extent that almost one story would deny the other, due to a failure in the fabrication of lies.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that there is nothing new in what is being hatched against Iraq today. It is an essential part of the conspiracy that was defeated before and it is the enemies' way of escalating the disinformation campaigns. This time, these campaigns are accompanied by an implicit threat of aggression, whose magnitude the Iraqis know very well. The Iraqis do not need to listen to the instigations of certain sides which enumerate the forces of aggression that are prepared to harm Iraq, as if this is something new and as if the aggressive intentions against our people are new.

Paper Urges U.S. To Reconsider 'Calculations'

JN1608135595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0708 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper has urged the United States to resort to reason, staidness, wisdom, and accuracy when making decisions.

In an editorial today, AL-'IRAQ strongly criticized U.S. practices, shortsightedness, shallowness in political and diplomatic dealings with international issues in general, and with Iraq in particular.

It said the United States is a big power, and according to financial, economic, and military standards, it is the strongest country and the most influential one on earth, therefore, its practices and reactions should be in line with its capabilities and its weight in international politics.

It added that the U.S. Administration now is frantically following the events here and there in a manner that does not suit the prestige of a big power. It clearly failed in dealing with the Bosnian crisis when the Serbs stormed Muslim safe areas and with the defection of an Iraqi minister and his decision to move to the trench of the enemies, seeking foreigner's protection, which represents an ordinary and individual event.

It said President Bill Clinton hastened to make threats to Iraq, and his media as well as the Western media began to fabricate the news and reports that please them, and to show the event as if Baghdad is in turmoil.

It asked: How can a big power like the United States hasten and lose balance while dealing with an ordinary individual event the like of which happened in the past and may happen in the future anywhere in the world. Is it permitted for the United States, while alleging that it is the country of principles and human rights to adopt backward and failed examples by all moral standards, exaggerate their importance, and provide them with care to the extent of making threats of launching an aggression against Iraq.

It said one of the reasons that led to this U.S. imbalance in dealing with an individual event is the nature of the current U.S. Administration, whose foreign policy is characterized by hesitation, perplexity, and probably ignorance which leads to flaws in making decisions and speedy reactions whose results are miscalculated. The best evidence on this, is its foolish dealing with Yugoslavia, Somalia, and North Korea.

The newspaper focused on the U.S. complete failure in its policy on Iraq and its historic leadership, and said: Iraq remained strong, resisted all aggressive and conspiratorial U.S. plans, resumed its advance march, and made important achievements in the construction and progress fields, relying on its own capabilities in spite of the military aggression and chapter of treason and the five-year comprehensive siege.

The newspaper asked the U.S. decisionmakers and the Kuwaiti regime to be aware of a shining truth that remained steadfast in face of all challenges, which is that the experience of Iraq and the legendary steadfastness of its people will come out yet stronger and more immune.

Concluding the editorial, the newspaper asked the U.S. Administration to reconsider its calculations toward Iraq, and learn a lesson from its failed experiences, and to realize that revolution led by Saddam Husayn was triumphant and was born to last.

Envoy Protests U.S. Use of Saudi Air Bases

JN1808102095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0850 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (INA) — Iraq has once again informed the Arab League that the rulers of

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Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft which violate Iraq's airspace and threaten its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to the Arab League secretary general yesterday, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said between 1 and 10 August, these aircraft violated Iraq's airspace conducting 622 aggressive sorties. They took off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's permanent representative asked that the letter be distributed to member states, along with an attached list which details these regrettable facts.

Iranian Cease-Fire 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN1808082095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1918 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 17 Aug (INA) — Iraq has again protested the Iranian side's continued violations of the cease-fire agreement and the Tehran agreement on the buffer zone between Iraq and Iran between 1 July to 31 July 1995.

In a protest letter delivered by Iraq's permanent representative to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq said that at 0810 on 1 July, the Iranian side set up permanent points in zone no. 933031 in front of the al-Tayyib police post in the buffer zone.

On 2 July 1995, the Iranian side mounted a single-barrel machine gun in zone no. 909788 in al-Shalamjah.

On 5 July 1995, three people on board an Iranian fiberglass boat, wearing civilian clothes and armed with Kalashnikovs, crossed the territorial waters and abducted an Iraqi fishing boat carrying fishermen Hamid 'Abbas, Majid Talib, and 'Ali Sabbar in al-Kat'ah. The Iranians led the Iraqi boat to an Iranian point in zone no. 78598. The boat is still at the Iranian point.

On 30 July 1995, two helicopters were observed over zone no. 5970 north of Suddat 'Ujayridah [name as transliterated]. They flew for 5 minutes and then returned to Iranian territory. It has also been observed recently that Iranian boats are crossing the borderline in Shatt al-'Arab and approaching Iraqi fishermen, harassing and inspecting them. The Iranian side also secretly installed a pipe to pump oil from Majnun fields to Iranian territory.

The Iranian side has also built emplacements for medium-range machine guns opposite Shalhat al-Aghawat [name as transliterated] and cleared a 1-km area ahead of the emplacements of cane and parchment to observe the area in front of Shatt al-'Arab. It also sent more combat patrols to that region.

On 29 July 1995, a helicopter approached from Iranian territory toward Wadi al-Za'faran in zone no. 486355. It flew for five minutes 250 km from the international borders.

On 31 July 1995, another helicopter was spotted in zone no. 720240 in al-Jaftah region 14 km from the international borders. Also, another helicopter was observed in zone no. 720220 opposite Qurmtih [name as transliterated] 2 km from the international borders.

Iraq asked that the letter be distributed to UN member states as a Security Council document.

Memo to UN Protests U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

JN1508140495 Baghdad INA in English
1330 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Aug 15, INA — Iraq has protested against U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace with the aim of surveillance and provocation and dropping flares on some areas of the country.

In a memo to the U.N. secretary general, Iraq said U.S. warplanes carried out 846 sorties over northern and southern areas of Iraq over the period 1-10 this month.

The Iraqi memo stressed that the American aircraft (T 10-1) violated Iraq's airspace during the same period taking off from bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Iraq demanded the memo be handed out as a U.N. Security Council document.

Expelled Kuwaitis Renew Call for Return Home

JN1608114195 Baghdad INA in English
0830 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 16 (INA) — More than 300,000 Kuwaitis expelled by the Kuwaiti regime following the cease-fire of the U.S-led aggression against Iraq renewed their demand to return back to their country.

Head of an association which embraces these Kuwaitis, called Owners of Right Husayn Fahd al-'Unayzi, said in a press conference held last Wednesday that despite their many calls to return back home, the Kuwaiti regime has not listened to their demand yet. Al-'Unayzi said these expelled Kuwaitis are living in Iraq distributed in Baghdad and other Iraqi provinces.

The expelled Kuwaitis are those whom the Kuwaiti regime have not issued for them nationality and the Kuwaiti authorities call them the bidun (the stateless arabs).

Al-'Unayzi said in a press conference held in the headquarters of the association in Baghdad that these

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expelled Kuwaitis used to work with Kuwaiti police, army, the Kuwaiti intelligence service and even in the military intelligence.

He said some of them even used to guard and escort members of the Kuwaiti regime.

Head of the association said that his association has explained the issue of expelled Kuwaitis to Arab and international organizations such as the Arab League, the United Nations and many other humanitarian organizations.

"However, there has not been any positive reaction from those organizations to help us", al-'Unayzi said.

However, head of the association described all the attempts made and that will be made in the future by his organization in order to return these expelled people are peaceful.

Al-'Unayzi said members of his organization cannot travel outside Iraq to explain their issue because they have not had passports or any other papers that would help them to travel abroad.

However, the association has attended a number of Arab meetings held in Iraq. "Many arab dignitaries and organizations have showed understanding to their problem", he said.

Also there is an international organization called Middle East Watch (MEW) which has published a report stressing that the Kuwaiti regime is practicing discrimination against the so called bidun stateless arabs. The organization is based in New York and it defends human rights.

Recently the organization has received money from various parts of the world and even from people inside Kuwait. This came following an appeal made by the association. Al-'Unayzi is expecting that these donation would increase during the coming days.

Head of the association thanked the Iraqi people and government for accommodating them in Iraq. He said all Kuwaitis living in Iraq maintain good conditions and they live in healthy homes and not tents.

He said despite the conditions of the trade sanctions, the Iraqi government supplies these Kuwaitis with food and medicine.

"The government has even employed many of the expelled Kuwaitis in various government establishments in order to improve their living conditions.

Al-'Unayzi said not all Kuwaitis in Iraq or in other countries are expelled. Some of them have chosen to be outside Kuwait to support the issue of expelled Kuwaitis.

He said, he himself is not expelled by the regime but he has chosen to join these people in Iraq in order to work for their return to their home.

Saddam Receives Thank-You Cable From King Husayn

JN1708111795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from King Husayn of Jordan in reply to a cable of congratulations his excellency the president has sent on the anniversary of King Husayn's accession to the throne of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The cable reads as follows: With great thanks and immense appreciation, we have received your congratulations and fraternal best wishes, which were contained in the cable your excellency has sent us on the 43d anniversary of our accession to the throne of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

While thanking your excellency, dear brother, in my name and on behalf of the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as well as its government, we beseech God Almighty to grant us all success in all that would promote the interests of our two fraternal peoples and glorious Arab nation.

Foreign Minister Meets Eritrean Delegation

JN1408141095 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug. 14, INA — Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met on Sunday the Eritrean Popular Front for Democracy and Justice delegation chaired by Secretary General al-Amin Muhammad Sa'id.

The two sides tackled means of boosting bilateral ties in different spheres.

The aim of the visit of the Eritrean delegation is to get acquainted with adverse effects of the five-year old oppressive embargo and the reconstruction drive carried by Iraqis despite the harsh circumstances of the embargo.

Saddam Sends Message to Amir of Qatar

JN1408142095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 14 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi ambassador in Doha has conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Highness

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Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar.

The message was conveyed when the Iraqi ambassador met with his highness the amir at the Amiri Court this morning. The message deals with Gulf and Arab situation and ways to enhance brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries in all areas.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session; Education Debated

JN1708121295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1107 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has presided over the 31st session of the Council of Ministers.

The council reviewed the report submitted by the minister of higher education and scientific research on the plans, procedures, and measures implemented in accordance with the directives his excellency the president issued at a seminar on promoting higher education and scientific research held in June and July 1992.

The council was apprised of the new specialties introduced and the new technical colleges, teacher training institutes, and evening study programs created. It was also briefed on the great expansion of postgraduate studies; the programs for inter-university coordination; work in the industrial, agricultural, and other sectors; and consulting and research tasks and missions.

His excellency the president and the ministers praised the results that have been achieved. His excellency stressed the need to continue giving attention to the quality of higher education and scientific research activities. He also underlined the importance of upgrading and assessing these activities through following up, planning, and examination so as to realize the best results in implementation of the slogan "quality is synonymous with patriotism" adopted by his excellency in the seminar on progress. He also called for embarking on a thorough study of horizontal expansion in light of the availability of teaching and research cadres.

The cabinet also discussed in its 31st session coordinating the tasks and activities of the industrial and oil sectors in a manner that would ensure integrating the industrial base and improving the efficient exploitation of available sources in order to upgrade the performance of these two sectors. The cabinet endorsed the setting up of a ministerial committee to this end.

Commander Cables Saddam on Navy 58th Anniversary

JN1308205995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroic men of the Navy have pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, to remain brandished swords at his beck and call to protect the nation's honor and dignity and to continue training, building, jihad, and creative work to cross, under his wise leadership, to the shore of safety and welfare. This came in a cable the commander of the Navy Force sent to the leader president on the 58th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Navy Force. The Navy commander added: Thanks to his excellency's distinguished role in building and developing it, the heroic Navy recorded the most splendid heroic epic-like deeds, the likes of which were rare in the history of modern navy wars, noting its role in Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah war and the Mother of Battles.

RCC Official Addresses Meeting on Cultivation

JN1308210995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Vice Chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim has emphasized that what has been achieved in the current harvest season is a weapon in the face of all those who are conspiring against this nation.

Speaking during a ceremony to honor the second group of participants in the campaign in Ninawah Province, the vice chairman promised that the problems in the previous cultivation season will be solved next season because the specialized committees will not only supervise the harvest campaign through all stages, beginning with land preparation [sentence as heard].

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid, the minister of agriculture; Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the minister of trade; the Governor of Ninawah Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash, and other senior party and government officials.

FAO Mission in Country To Assess Food Situation

JN1508094695 Baghdad INA in English 0840 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 15, INA—A Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mission is currently on a visit to the country to assess the current year agricultural season and food products in the country to acquaint the international community on the shortages

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of food and the fall in agricultural products because of the five-year old economic sanctions.

In 1991 and 1993 two missions of FAO visited the country and published reports warning of a rapid deterioration in the food supply situation throughout Iraq and its impact on the nutritional status of the people, specially the most vulnerable ones, children, women and the elderly.

FAO current mission comprises representatives of WHO (World Health Organization), the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), WFP (World Food Program) and members of Harvard University.

During its several-week visit which is organized in co-operation and coordination with UN specialized agencies mentioned above and authorities in concerned ministries in Iraq will visit agricultural production sites, warehouses and markets to define prefamine indicators and malnutrition-related diseases [sentence as received].

On Sunday [13 August], Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Latif Nusayyif Jasim met with members of the FAO mission.

During the meeting, the minister shed light on the plight of Iraqi people due to shortages of food because of sanctions and the alarming rise in mortality rates among children, women and the elderly.

The minister also reviewed the impact of the sanctions on social care programs for orphans, the elderly, and poor families.

The meeting was attended by FAO's representative in Iraq Ahmad 'Abdallah.

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Paper Reviews Clinton's Options on Iraq

TA1708135195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Aug 95 p 9

[Editorial: "To Brandish a Tomahawk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] These days the Clinton administration is literally brandishing a state-of-the-art, destructive cruising missile which boasts the name of an old Indian weapon — the Tomahawk. Secretary of Defense William Perry took pains to remind Saddam Husayn that the U.S. Navy's submarines and cruisers can launch such missiles directly into the heart of the Baghdad regime if Saddam has the audacity to vacation in August with his army inside Jordan, as he had in Kuwait five years ago.

Clinton has learned the lessons of his predecessor. Not so much the military and statesmanship lessons, because the Bush administration deserved kudos for recovering from the shock of the invasion into Kuwait and for assembling an Arab-Western alliance against Iraq. Rather, he has learned the political lesson. Bush, Secretary of State Baker, their aides, and esteemed senators (including Bob Dole, the leading Republican presidential candidate against Clinton) were censured for being too soft and even ingratiating toward Saddam in the spring of 1990 — an attitude which led the Iraqi ruler to believe that the annexation of Kuwait would be met with American indulgence. Clinton dreads his adversaries' reaction if he fails, as did his predecessor. Therefore, both to prevent a misunderstanding with Iraq and to avert domestic criticism, senior administration officials hastened to issue unequivocal anti—Iraq and pro-Jordan statements.

Not that the Tomahawk can stop an Iraqi expeditionary force on the Jordanian border if Saddam decides to expand his army maneuvers into a full-blown invasion, which is what armies often do (and which is how military coups have taken place in Baghdad, having begun as ostensibly innocuous movements of armored formations and then sort of accidentally moving in on the palace and the broadcasting station). The cruising missiles (as well as the strategic bombers) can chastise the ruling systems and the command in the Iraqi capital, as they did two years ago when Clinton reacted to the exposure of an Iraqi scheme to assassinate Bush during a visit to Kuwait. Yet the odds of achieving the desired objective — to harm Saddam personally or to contribute to his downfall — are quite dubious.

Saddam must realize that the present political circumstances are substantially different from those of the summer of 1990. The Jordanian Army is stronger and more determined than that of Kuwait. The U.S. presence is the area — in the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia, the Mediterranean, and Turkey — is much more powerful than it was then; the Kurdish north and the Shiite south of Iraq are partially detached from the central regime; the Iraqi mass destruction weapons have been (mostly or entirely) destroyed; and Israel, which was kept back from retaliating during that crisis, so as not to wreck the alliance, is at peace with Jordan, and is therefore free from those tethers. All these arguments are supposed to induce Saddam to act with restraint, but since he is guided by considerations of personal survival and the retention of power, the bottom line of his equation may be the opposite of other people's arithmetic.

Clinton's main difficulty is not a want of military power vis-a-vis Iraq, but rather the presidential orders devised by his predecessors against the assassination of foreign rulers — the consequence of the search for the reasons for the assassination of President Kennedy in the U.S. plans to assassinate Fidel Castro. Saddam's Iraq will be neutralized only if it is scalped with the good old Indian tomahawk — the original one, but the Americans evidently prefer to leave this task to the Iraqis and to others.

Levi Political Stand Criticized as 'Double-Talk'

TA1708103995 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MK David Levi obviously does not want to step on anyone's toes. According to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Aug. 16, 1995, Levy announced that he was opposed to the Rabin government's far reaching concessions, while he is also opposed to "ruling another people". Judean Voice Commentary:

Here we go again with the right-wing populist double-talk. Yes, for peace, the right wingers tell us. Yes, for the rights of the Palestinians, they also say.

For once and for all let it be said: Israel is a Jewish state, there is no such such thing as Palestine and there is no such thing as a Palestinian people. If the Arabs living in Israel refuse to accept Jewish sovereignty, they can leave to any of the 21 Moslem countries that exist.

The refusal to speak clearly and annex the territories and remove the hostile enemies of Israel, is a rejection of Israel as a Jewish state. It is either Israel or Palestine. There can be no logical coexistence between two peoples who both claim rights to the same piece of land. The Arabs reject an Israel of any size or shape. The Jews have doubts and guilt complexes and hope to buy the Arab through meaningless concessions.

The Arabs see these compromises as the first step towards realizing a "Palestinian" state and annihilating

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the Jewish state of thieves. Zionism did not come into being for peace, but rather to establish a Jewish homeland in the biblical borders of Eretz Yisra'el. Only one small problem, the Jews have stopped being Zionists and the Arabs are still fighting for our liquidation. Any compromise we make will only guarantee future concessions to the Arab and international blackmail.

Gaza Strip Closure Extended Until 20 Aug

TA1708164395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gaza Strip closure will continue until Sunday [20 August] morning. This was decided at the Southern Command today.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinian security forces continue the manhunt for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist Wahil al-Nasr, who is suspected of planning a suicide attack in central Israel.

'Several' Palestinian Institutions To Be Closed

TA1808052595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Next week Police Minister Moshe Shahal will sign closure orders for several Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem. It is claimed that these institutions run counter to agreements and are under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. This has been learned by our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky.

The Palestinians are protesting the closure of the Cave of the Patriarchs from Saturday evening for the assessment of the security arrangements there. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the official in charge of the PA's Waqf portfolio, Hasan Tahbub, sent a telegram to the prime minister asking that the decision be rescinded.

'Arafat Independence Declaration Plan Criticized

TA1708105195 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Aug. 15, 1995, 'Arafat will be announcing the formation of an independent state of Palestine immediately after Israel withdraws its troops from the major cities of Judaea and Samaria.

'Arafat plans to recite his declaration of independence in Jericho. The constitution of Palestine is being drawn up by a group of French attorneys. 'Arafat is pressuring Israel to agree upon the release of all of the Arab terrorists from Israeli prisons prior to his historical proclamation.

The PLO authority is preparing to invite world leaders and the international media. News agencies around the world are beginning to prepare the logistics for the broadcasting of 'Arafat's speech. Judean Voice Commentary:

The cat has jumped out of the hat a little earlier than Rabin and Peres anticipated. Israel's leaders are still floating around the world claiming that there will be no PLO state.

Judging from the preparations which are being made by all of the major media in the world, the world seems to believe Mr. 'Arafat more than they believe Rabin.

All of the empty promises of the previous Likud and Labor governments are worthless and insignificant lies. For all of these years, all of the previous governments spoke of the need to recognize the national aspirations of the "Palestinians". The natural consequence is a Palestine. Because if there is a "Palestinian" people that have rights in Israel, what could be more basic then statehood to realize those rights and aspirations. From the moment the Likud signed the dreadful Camp David Accords, Palestine is the clear direction and ultimate conclusion.

There is only one relevant question left which begs to be addressed: Will the Jews prepare an independent fighting force that can attempt to seize the strategic army posts and bases being abandoned by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]? And are their enough Jews who are prepared to fight against the Arabs who will be planning to massacre the Jews who remain? When Rabbi Kahane suggested the need to form an independent state of Judea with this in mind, he was condemned by the "settlement" movement. When Kahane Hay suggested recruiting young volunteers to help protect "settlements", they were criticized by the "settlement" movement, who said they would rather rely on the government. It may be too late to organize, however; even if there is time left, it does not seem that the "settlement" movement understands the cruel reality.

Naturally, the government of Yitzhaq Rabin will do exactly what the British did upon leaving Palestine before the creation of the state of Israel. They will continue to aid the Arabs by arming them and handing them control of the strategic bases. If the Jews do not mobilize quickly, the pogroms of Palestine will be renewed shortly. The Jews could win if they are prepared to unite and fight.

Unfortunately, they do not appear to be ready to declare a state of Judaea or an independent fighting force and continue to expect Rabin to save them.

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When Peres says that the "settlers" better change their attitude towards Arabs, he knows what he is talking about. The Jews will be massacred, G-d forbid, if they are not prepared to be 'Arafat's slaves or to fight a new war of independence.

Rabin To Attend Some Sessions of Amman Conference

TA1808095995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Aug pp 1, 10

[Report from Amman by Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided to attend the opening ceremony and the last three days of an economic conference in Amman scheduled to be held at the end of October 1995.

Through this, Israel will seek to demonstrate the importance it attributes to economic cooperation with Jordan and to the dozens of projects for which plans have been completed since the economic boycott against Israel was lifted.

Rabin's visit to Jordan is also designed to mark the first anniversary of the peace agreement between the two countries, the date of which falls during the Amman conference.

The conference will be chaired by Crown Prince Hasan and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The participation of dozens of delegations from the Arab world and hundreds of economists and businessmen is expected. [passage omitted]

Rabin Wants Palestinian Charter Voided by PNC

TA1808093895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Aug 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by 'Uzi Benziman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin intends to demand from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that the clauses in the Palestinian Charter calling for Israel's destruction be revoked by the Palestine National Council, and not by the autonomy council appointed in the elections scheduled to take place in the territories by the beginning of next Ramadan (22 January 1996).

If this demand is not met, Rabin will refuse to implement the clause agreed upon by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat in the Taba agreement specifying a timetable for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in three stages in the C area. If his demand is accepted, the prime minister will make an effort to redeploy the IDF in the West Bank so as to hint at the permanent borders between Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA], under which Israel will annex a wide strip of territory leading to Jerusalem from north and south.

Reliable sources close to the prime minister reported this week that Rabin believes that the interim agreement with the Palestinians will indeed be signed in the coming weeks and that the elections for the Palestinian autonomy council will be held between mid December 95 and 22 January 1996. When the parties finalize the understandings, the Palestinians will receive direct control (in areas A and B) over approximately one third of the entire West Bank. The sources confirmed that although 'Arafat and the Palestinian representatives to the negotiations have not yet seen the Israeli maps of the IDF redeployment in these two areas, they have received some idea of them.

To offset the Palestinians' expected disappointment with the relatively small area that will be transferred to their control at this stage, the Taba declaration set a timetable for the IDF's coming redeployment in the C area. Area A (the "brown" area on the map) indicates the major towns the IDF will pull out of upon the signing of the interim agreement. Area B, (the "yellow area"), comprises the rural area in which the IDF will redeploy prior to the elections, and Area C is most of the West Bank territory which will remain under Israeli control and in which the IDF is only slated to redeploy over a period of 18 months following the elections.

Rabin's main focus now is on completing the negotiations on an interim arrangement and implementing it by the end of 1995. He is cautious about making public statements on his intentions with regard to the continuation of the process; however, from remarks he has voiced in closed forums over the past few days, one can learn that he intends to try and make the PLO responsible for implementing the next stage, which also entails the IDF's later redeployment in the C area: terrorist attacks and any reluctance to amend the Palestinian Charter will constitute sufficient cause in Israel's view to refrain from implementing the second stage of the interim agreement.

On the other hand, if the PLO meets its commitments, the prime minister intends to see the political process with the Palestinians through and forge a new relationship between the State of Israel and the adjoining Palestinian entity. Rabin is careful not to refer to the Palestinian entity as a "state." He is considering the possibility of creating a joint Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli framework but has expressed the view that it is too early to deal with this issue at the present stage. Rabin admits that the final nature of the permanent agreement is still not clear to him.

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Rabin is aware of the significance of the cabinet's decisions with regard to the future of the territories and recognizes the dire predicament confronting the settlers. Contrary to the derisive remarks he recently made about the settlers and their demonstrations, Rabin has told the people around him that the government's decisions are destroying the dream (or in Rabin's words: "the delusion") of Greater Israel. In Rabin's definition, the struggle the settlers are waging, together with the right-wing parties, is the final battle for their political ideology.

Rabin asserts that his policy constitutes the realization of the Labor Party's political viewpoint, which always supported territorial compromise and rejected domination over another people. The prime minister claims that the settlers and the right-wing are diverting their argument with the government to security issues in order to win the sympathy of the wider public, while the real disagreements are over politics and ideology.

The prime minister has instructed the security services to use intelligence when dealing with the demonstrators, and to refrain as much as possible from confrontations to prevent them from stationing any structures at protest sites. Rabin estimates that the scope of IDF and police forces in the territories will grow as a result of the army's redeployment, in order to guarantee as much as possible that the arrangements agreed upon with the Palestinians will work smoothly and to instill a sense of individual security among the Israeli settlers. The prime minister does not intend to take any steps to weaken the settlers' resolve to continue living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Peres on Peace Process, U.S. Embassy Move

TA1808095595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 95 p 8

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by David Makovsky;

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Makovsky] After spending a week with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Taba, you stand poised to reach agreement on expanding autonomy throughout the territories. How do you assess the agreement's historic significance? Prime Minister Rabin, I think, calls it a mighty blow to the delusions of a "Greater Israel." Some have called it the "end of the occupation." Do you agree with these characterizations? Is it irreversible?

[Peres] It was irreversible the minute you looked at a map, even before the agreement. The Likud doesn't have an answer (to) what to do with 3.5 million non-Jewish people. It doesn't have an answer (to the question of) with whom to negotiate. It doesn't have (any suggestions). So it is not because we were so wise and strong.

[Makovsky] Do you agree that this is, as some people term it, "the end of the occupation"?

[Peres] So I hope, because the occupation is extremely costly — not only to the occupied, but also to the occupier.

I think this (move marks) a greater Israel, but scientifically, intellectually, technologically, and morally. Greatness is not just the real estate. There is an estate which is not less real — one of moral consideration. Israel will make this year $80 billion out of their brains, double as much as Saudi Arabia does out of their oil wells, which is greatness to me.

[Makovsky] One of your main goals in the talks with 'Arafat in Taba last week was to ensure that Israel did not commit itself in writing to pull out of specific geographic chunks of uninhabited rural areas in the territories, which constitute 73% of the territories. It seems you have convinced 'Arafat to defer this issue until after the Israeli elections in 1996. Did you verbally promise 'Arafat he would receive much of these rural areas after the elections, pending Palestinian performance in curbing terrorism?

[Peres] I told him that our consideration would be like in the past — security. When we negotiated Gaza-Jericho First, you were not sure that we (would) continue. We are continuing. Is anybody forcing us? Nobody is forcing us. If you don't trust us, then do not do a deal with us.

I told him there are in the world today two great phenomena. One is Bosnia and the other is Israel. Israel is stronger than the Serbs, richer than the Serbs. We already won Bosnia (Arab territories). It is in our hands. Nobody is imposing upon us. We have a strong army. We have a good economy. We are not afraid of you. Morally, we do not want to run your lives. Politically, we want to keep the character of our people.

[Makovsky] What was the toughest point of the negotiations last week in Taba?

[Peres] I told 'Arafat that if we do not have "overriding responsibility" (for all nonmunicipal areas of the territories), we cannot assure that there will not be bloodshed. I told him that (his idea) of joint patrols would be very vulnerable.

[Makovsky] The current headquarters of the Palestinians is in Gaza. Menachem Begin's autonomy plan envisioned Bethlehem. Now the rumor is that after autonomy is extended throughout the territories, it will be shared between Gaza and Ramallah?

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[Peres] Probably.

[Makovsky] A key issue is the relationship between the interim agreement and the vision for final-status negotiations. There is concern by some that the government does not have a plan for final status and therefore cannot conduct interim negotiations with an eye to where it wants to wind up.

[Peres] I took permanent settlement into consideration for the first time at Taba, which was never recognized in the (talks on) redeployment. Our "red lines" are Jerusalem, (which) must remain united, and (that) no foreign army can cross the Jordan River.

[Makovsky] Why do you think Palestinian statehood is a bad idea?

[Peres] Because there is something better: a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. I think we have to have a solution that cannot create a clash between Jordanians and Palestinians. It is in our interest and in the interest of peace. (Such a structure) will keep the West Bank demilitarized.

[Makovsky] A state will not keep the territories demilitarized?

[Peres] A state creates temptations.

[Makovsky] But is it not true that the Palestinian blue police, who deal with public order, will be allowed into every village, including those near the Green Line?

[Peres] They (will be able to) go to every village.

[Makovsky] Do you believe in the idea of settlement blocs?

[Peres] The people (who advocate settlement blocs) negotiate with themselves (and are thus) far more successful than people who have to negotiate with the other party.

Look, they (the settlers) look upon everything in the territorial light instead of looking at it in a psychological light. If relations (are) changed, then we don't need blocs. If it will remain a shooting relation, blocs won't help. Those people are not paralyzed — they move, they go.

[Makovsky] Yes, but you forsee some settlements as remaining inside a Palestinian entity. Can you assure the settlers living in blocs, such as those in Ma'ale Adumim and the 'Etzyon Bloc area, that they will be annexed to Israel as part of any final deal?

[Peres] First of all, I don't want to commit myself to any annexation. They will remain Israeli citizens forever. It is not at all sure we will reach any agreement on sovereignty of the West Bank. The West Bank may remain without sovereignty. In Camp David, we committed ourselves not to annex (during the autonomy period). I do not see any annexation or giveaway.

[Makovsky] Are you concerned about the polarization in society as a result of this agreement?

[Peres] I am not, because we are undergoing an operation now, and it is healthy. These people will learn. I remember what some people said after we withdrew from Gaza. They said, "Nothing will come out of this; (these are) all the delusions of Mr. Peres; Katyushas (will be fired) at Ashqelon." The critics are quick to forget their own criticism.

[Makovsky] Isn't it fair to say there has been a mutual delegitimization process going on between the government and portions of the settlers? Do you see value in dialogue?

[Peres] We are not on the same level. We are the government and they are the settlers. If people want to come (and) talk, why not? But we are not equal parties. No matter what they say, we continue to devote resources to provide them with security.

[Makovsky] There is a feeling among some people that, apart from the policy issues, the government has sometimes made needless mistakes, for example by not displaying sufficient interest in religious sensitivities. For example, how the issue of Rachel's Tomb was handled.

[Peres] Nonsense again. There was no question that the actual tomb would be under Israeli control. The question is access roads.

[Makovsky] But could this not have been taken care of first?

[Peres] We are taking care of it. There are two options that we are studying.

[Makovsky] One of the unresolved issues in the current peace talks is water. How do you see it being resolved or will the Israeli-Palestinian committee that is supposed to deal with this issue meet indefinitely, long after the agreement?

[Peres] We need to create more water. All of us have a shortage. We should divide the cost of the water so it is not along national lines. I am a great believer in fairness. My approach to negotiation is not feeling you have gone to the bazaar. I don't judge myself on whether I've bought a bargain. Fairness is a good concept. Maybe we should produce more water for ourselves and give them some of the water we use.

[Makovsky] How do you see all sides obtaining more water? Perhaps a pipeline from Turkey?

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[Peres] No. Turkey is not a solution. We have to look for quicker solutions. The 'En Fashkha source will be a place. There we shall have to desalinate water. But it is not as salty as the sea water, so deslination should not be such a big story.

[Makovsky] How much water do you see Israel yielding?

[Peres] I will only say that the Palestinians can gain much water from the Eastern aquifer (near the Jordan Valley). There they can pump another 80 million cubic meters.

[Makovsky] How will this be funded?

[Peres] I spoke to (Secretary of State Warren) Christopher. He said the US would give $20 million; it (already) gives to Gaza. I will also talk to the Europeans.

[Makovsky] You have suggested that when 'Arafat spoke of Jihad or holy war in a recent videotaped appearance, he was merely being rhetorical. Yet 'Arafat's critics charge that this reveals his true intentions. What is the basis for your viewpoint? Why are the critics wrong?

[Peres] Yes (it is rhetoric), partly said to justify the past. (At the same time), what counts is not the intentions of the Palestinians. What counts is the confrontation between two realities.

[Makovsky] Are you saying that it is irrelevant if 'Arafat genuinely wants peace or just wants to obtain as much as he can?

[Peres] Yes, I do believe it is irrelevant.

[Makovsky] This is a big statement.

[Peres] (This is the) Israeli reality, the Israeli strength. We don't only rely upon ('Arafat's) intentions... Surely if Israel would suddenly become weak every weakness invites uninvited winds. (But) we don't intend to become weak. I think he is more realistic... I would not condense his realism to a few video cassettes. (The PLO) don't speak anymore about '48 — that's a major change for them. They talk about... 1967. They gave up terror. We know they did. They are condemning terror; neither (of us) dreamed that we would come to such a situation. They have changed already. They go for democracy. They go for dialogue. They go for '67. Those are three major changes in their standpoint.

[Makovsky] How would it hurt the peace process if the US moved its embassy to the western side of Jerusalem? Even if 'Arafat obtained 100% *of his demands for* returning to the '67 border, he would not get the area on the western side where the Allenby Camp in Talpiyyot is located. Israeli official silence makes it sound loud and clear that you do not want the embassy to move.

[Peres] We didn't say (that). We more or less said (to the Palestinians) we'd keep the status quo in Jerusalem.

[Makovsky] Was there an agreement that Israel should not build neighborhoods on the eastern side of the city?

[Peres] No. I agree with Menachem Begin, who once told (New York Senator) Patrick Moynihan that the fate of Jerusalem should be decided in Jerusalem and not in the American Congress.

[Makovsky] Your idea of a Middle East economic community is not being discussed here. However, many Arabs seem to be taking it seriously, but in the wrong way. They believe your idea of a "New Middle East" is shorthand for Israeli economic colonialism in the region. How do you explain that an idea meant favorably is being interpreted by Arabs as some nefarious Israeli design?

[Peres] Not all the Arabs think this way. There is a lot of rhetoric, but reality will prove richer.

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King Said To Walk Out on 'Hysterical' 'Udayy

MM1808111495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salih Qallab and 'Imad al-Furayh: "Husayn Kamil Holds Consultations To Form Iraqi Government in Exile"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — [passage omitted] Iraqi sources have stressed that Husayn Kamil has begun contacts with Iraqi figures representing various political inclinations to discuss available options, including the announcement of a provisional government in exile, whose first task would be to urge President Saddam Husayn to step down peacefully in favor of a transitional government that would supervise a general election within a year of assuming power. The sources said that those behind the plan face the problem of choosing a temporary place for this government's work. The sources ruled out Jordan as a place for the proposed government's activities. They also ruled out the possibility of announcing it from a Western state. The sources expected the announcement of the government's formation to be coupled with the announcement of a clear political program for the next stage, together with the announcement of a deadline for the Iraqi president's departure. The sources said that the formation of a government in exile is one of several options that Husayn Kamil has begun to study since last Saturday. [passage omitted]

New facts have emerged about the stormy meeting between King Husayn and 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, which took place during the brief visit [to Amman] by 'Udayy and former Iraqi Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid in the wake of Husayn Kamil Hasan's flight.

An informed source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that an atmosphere of tension dominated the meeting right from the beginning, and that Jordanian officials who attended the meeting with King Husayn included Marwan al-Qasim, director of the Royal Court; 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and education minister; and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister, while Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Nuri al-Wayyis joined the two Iraqi envoys, 'Udayy and al-Majid.

The source said that King Husayn took Husayn Kamil Hasan with him to the meeting — which was a surprise to 'Udayy, who was outraged and spoke loudly and emotionally, making implied threats and saying he would kill his brother-in-law, who had broken away from the Iraqi regime.

The source pointed out that the Iraqi president's son, who was almost "hysterical," got up angrily from his seat and moved toward Husayn Kamil after a violent verbal quarrel, threatening to gouge his eyes out.

At this point — according to the source — King Husayn stood up without uttering a word, took Husayn Kamil's arm, and walked out of the meeting accompanied by Husayn Kamil, without saying goodbye to the Iraqi delegation or giving them any message for Saddam Husayn. According to the source, Husayn Kamil accused 'Udayy in front of King Husayn of planning to kill him. He said that 'Udayy had determined to physically liquidate him a day before his flight to Jordan, and that he had discovered the plan hours before its implementation — hence his recent step.

It is worth mentioning that Jordanian Royal Court sources had said that the meeting between the Jordanian monarch and 'Udayy Saddam Husayn lasted only 10 minutes, and that the Iraqi president's daughters refused to meet with 'Udayy or any other Iraqi official.

Paper Speculates on Location of Saddam's Daughters

JN1808105095 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 19-25 Aug 95 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent developments related to the defection of Husayn Kamil and his companions from Iraq are essentially political in nature. However, the humanitarian element, especially in relation to Saddam Husayn's two daughters, has cast a shadow on these developments.

Observers are still asking questions about how Saddam's two daughters arrived in Amman and whether they escaped to Jordan of their own will or fell victim to a plot by their husbands, which they discovered only after they had left the Iraqi border.

This affair has cast a doubt on the loyalty of the two daughters to their father, who is known for his great love and care for them, especially his eldest daughter, since they were little children.

In light of the above, there have been many rumors and stories about the status of the two daughters of the Iraqi president, especially since they have made no public appearance and have given no public statements. An eyewitness said he saw them near the Iraqi-Jordanian border in al-Ruwayshid almost in a coma, citing the fact that the great noise in that area, which is crowded with big trucks, did not disturb them at all. This eyewitness is the last person to have seen them alive. He is

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an independent witness and not a party to the recent developments.

Therefore, members of the Iraqi president's family and popular and official Iraqi quarters have begun to raise many questions about the fate of the Iraqi president's daughters and whether they are still alive.

Rumors from Iraq say that Saddam's sons-in-law killed them in Jordan after they refused to support the coup led by Husayn Kamil against their father and after refusing even to take a ceremonial part in the scheme led by the Iraqi coup leaders against the regime in Iraq. A veteran senior Ba'thist leader coming from Iraq has challenged official quarters to allow the two daughters of the Iraqi president to speak to journalists in public or through television if they are still alive so they may say whether or not they actually support the recent operation against the Iraqi political regime and President Saddam Husayn.

What raises the concern of Iraqi quarters is that all the attempts by the two daughters' family to meet with them have thus far been rejected. The attempt by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, eldest son of the Iraqi president, last week in this regard was turned down. He was not allowed to meet with his two sisters, even in the presence of a third party. Likewise, all the attempts made thus far by the Iraqi president's sister, who is now in Jordan, to meet her two nieces have also failed. This has aggravated the doubts over their survival.

A second rumor has it that the two daughters of the Iraqi president are currently under stringent guard in a building in Amman, and that they are banned from holding contacts with any party regardless of the reason.

A third rumor has said that the two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn are currently in a private palace in Amman, that of their own volition they have refused to meet with any party whatsoever at this point, that they themselves have made the decision not to talk in public, and that this decision was not forced on them.

Due to these mysterious circumstances, Miss Iftikhar Ayyub, president of the Iraqi Women's Union, appealed to Jordanian newspapers, and SHIHAN in particular, to hold an interview with the two daughters of the Iraqi president.

In a statement to the newspaper's Baghdad office, she added that the freedom enjoyed by the Jordanian press and the democratization process in Jordan can help produce this interview, which will allow us to know about the whereabouts of President Saddam Husayn's two daughters and whether or not they are alive.

Miss Ayyub confirmed to SHIHAN that she appealed to Jordanian women, chief among whom were Her Majesty Queen Nur, Her Highness Princess Basmah, and several other prominent women in the Jordanian community, to intercede to clarify this issue before the public.

Iftikhar Ayyub charged that international newspapers and news agencies, which ignored the appeal, were involved in a deliberate attempt to obscure the most basic of rights; namely, to know from the Iraqi president's two daughters where they stand on these developments, and to allow those closest to them to meet them.

In a telephone conversation with his excellency the prime minister, Riyad al-Hurub, chairman of the Board of Directors of SHIHAN, asked him about the possibility of meeting the two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. His excellency the prime minister said that the government will neither ban interviews nor force decisions on others. It is up to them (the president's two daughters) to accept or reject such a request. He promised that he will try to know their views in this regard. He also reiterated that the government will respect the wishes of the two ladies in this regard.

However, the following question remains legitimate: Have the Iraqi president's two daughters been killed, or are they still alive?

The Iraqi version of the story says that their husbands might have killed them on the road after the crossed the Jordanian borders. There is also the possibility that the president's two daughters were killed in Amman after they had learned of what had happened. It goes without saying that the Jordanian Government cannot accept their killing on its territory.

It is also likely that the Iraqi president's two daughters are still alive, particularly if they had contact with the Jordanian Government before they stood the chance of coming in harm's way.

Reported in 'Deep Sleep' at Border

JN1808132295 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 19-25 Aug 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

All the information obtained by SHIHAN since the arrival of the motorcade of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil at the Iraqi-Jordanian border area of Tribil confirmed that Kamil's motorcade, which consisted of several luxury cars and a new model van, were not searched or opened and the passports of the cars' occupants were not checked, given the fact that the man leading the motorcade is one who cannot be searched or suspected. Hence, none of the Iraqi border guards was able to determine the identity of the cars' occupants or the items they were carrying. Nonetheless, one of the

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border guards saw Husayn Kamil instructing some of his escorts to return to Baghdad, which they did.

Then the motorcade proceeded toward the Jordanian search border post of al-Ruwayshid, which it reached late on the night of Monday-Tuesday (8 August). The Jordanian border guards were informed that the motorcade is that of Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil, that he was carrying an important message to his majesty the king from the Iraqi president, and that the motorcade should not be searched. As a matter of fact, the motorcade was not searched, as stated by a Jordanian bodyguard who said that he tried to satisfy his curiosity by coming close to the van and trying to open it. Nonetheless, he could not open it because it was closed from both inside and outside. This border guard reported that he saw two women inside the van in deep sleep. When he returned to ask one of Husayn Kamil's senior escorts about the identity of these two women, he was told that they were the two daughters of President Saddam Husayn and the wives of Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam. This lends credence to the Iraqi version of the story, which says that the two daughters of President Saddam were drugged with highly potent sleep-inducing injections before they left Iraq.

The motorcade then left for Amman. It reached Amman in the early hours of Tuesday, 8 August, and headed immediately for Jabal Amman. Its destination was a building owned or leased by an Iraqi Government corporation located between the 4th and 5th circles. The delegation slept on the second furnished floor of the building. The delegation did not stay at 'Amra Hotel, as reported in some Jordanian stories. This was also confirmed to SHIHAN by the hotel management in a telephone conversation with the weekly. Our sources have said that Husayn Kamil, who stayed at this building before, particularly when he underwent surgery at the al-Husayn Medical Center last year to remove a brain tumor, held intensive contacts with senior Jordanian officials on the morning of Tuesday, particularly with the Royal Court officials, chief among whom was Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim to arrange for a necessary, important, and urgent meeting with his majesty the king.

The sources added that the meeting was arranged for urgently and quickly after the end of the major ceremony marking the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, which was held under the patronage of his majesty the king. After the conclusion of this ceremony, Husayn Kamil headed for the Royal Court for a closed meeting with his majesty the king. It was noon on Tuesday. This meeting ended with Jordan announcing that it would host Husayn Kamil and grant him refuge and the right to stay in the country.

Information leaked from the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Husayn Kamil indicated that Kamil spoke about the deterioration of the situation in Iraq, which has become intolerable, and also about the regime's mishandling of the situation. He expressed grave concern over the "mistakes" made by the leadership on the domestic, regional, and international levels, as he put it.

The leaked information also indicated that throughout the meeting with his majesty the king, Husayn Kamil expressed concern over repression and abuses of the rights of the Iraqi people. Kamil added that he felt that he had to leave because he could not take it any longer.

The information also revealed that his majesty the king was moved by what he heard from Kamil regarding the situation in Iraq, and decided to grant him refuge immediately and without any reluctance.

Official Denies U.S. Pressure To Cut Iraq Ties

JN1708165095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 95

[By Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jordanian official has stressed that his country does not plan to sever its economic ties with Iraq. He noted that the U.S. Administration has not made any request in this regard. The same official stressed that any improvement in his country's relations with the Gulf states will not be made at the expense of Jordan's ties with Iraq.

A U.S. newspaper reported that the U.S. Administration is seeking to persuade Amman to sever its economic ties with Baghdad and is proposing, in return, that Amman will be able to restore its economic ties with the Gulf states which were severed after the Gulf crisis.

On the same subject, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti, who returned from Jeddah after meeting with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, said that he has not heard any such proposal and stressed that Jordan's policy is not decided by others.

Regarding his talks in Saudi Arabia, al-Kabariti stressed that Amman and Riyadh agree on the need to preserve Iraq's unity and sovereignty on the Arab level and that Iraq must resume its role on the Arab arena.

On bilateral ties, al-Kabariti stressed that ties between Amman and Riyadh are back on the right course. He noted that in the next few days better and stronger ties will be seen and that contacts will continue on all levels.

Saudi Arabia has appointed an ambassador to Jordan — 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sudayri — to fill the post which had been vacant for five years.

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Deputy Criticizes General Hasan Statements

JN1708151295 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 4

["Hottest Words" column by Bassam al-'Umush, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives: "Jordan Is Not a Place To Conspire Against Arabs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has not been long since Jordan took a firm stand on the attack against Iraq, its people, and resources. The Jordanian stand is still a source of pride for every Arab, Muslim, and sane person. We have supported the 20 million Iraqis because Iraq has always helped the Arab nation whenever it was in need of help.

We in Jordan have always considered Iraq our supporter and backer and we will not forget this. Iraqis have left behind martyrs on our land. The Iraqi Army cemetery in al-Mafraq area stands as a witness to the struggle of the Iraqi people.

Jordan took a firm stand that it should not regret or go back on. True, it has granted political asylum to the Iraqi newcomers led by General Husayn Kamil Hasan. However, this does not mean that it is presenting the Jordanian land as a base for scheming against Iraq; for it does not wish to see any Arab country used as a center for conspiring against it.

The one who seeks political asylum should speak in a tone completely different from the tone used by General Hasan. I doubt that any Jordanian would accept his tone, because our political position, both official and popular, is to leave the internal affairs of any state to its own people, regardless of whether they agree or disagree, or they decide to change or to maintain things as they are. We can, through our political connections, voice our opinion to our neighboring Arab brothers. However, we cannot side with one party at the expense of another, particularly when the party we are about to side with had, until recently, been part of the regime.

General Hasan statements amount to a declaration of war, launched from Jordanian territory, against the Iraqi regime, and this is unacceptable. We in Jordan cannot bear such a grave responsibility, and our people do not support such behavior. Jordan cannot pay the price of family and party disputes in any country.

I call on the Jordanian Government to undertake its responsibilities by drawing certain limits that political refugees should not exceed. Jordan accepts what any people accept for themselves. Our political and economic situation does not allow us to welcome the disputes of our brothers on our land. What I am proposing here is to listen to the conscience of Jordanians who have always loved Iraqis, all Iraqis.

Parliament Member: Defectors 'Not Welcomed'

JN1708144795 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 6

["Point of Order" column by Bassam Haddadin, member of the House of Representatives: "Those Who Abandoned Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that those who broke away from the Iraqi regime and were granted protection and security in Jordan are among those who accept all the U.S. terms for lifting the embargo on Iraq. They also seem to support Iraqi involvement in efforts to reach a political settlement, and participation in arrangements currently underway in the region.

Choosing Amman as an asylum from which to state that "the situation in Iraq has become unbearable" has certain implications. It was Amman who called on the world to be specific on what it requires from Iraq so that the embargo could be lifted. It was Amman which hosted the secret Iraqi-Israeli meeting, or meetings which were recently announced, and were not denied by the Iraqi Government. Some politicians say that the leader of separatists, Husayn Kamil Hasan himself, participated in these meetings with the knowledge of the Iraqi leadership, as there was news of such secret meetings during Husayn Kamil's visit to Amman last month.

The announcement that the "situation in Iraq is unbearable," reflects a strong desire to lift obstacles impeding the alleviation of the Iraqi people, the suffering caused by "Saddam Husayn's failure to abide by all the requirements of lifting the embargo on Iraq."

Today, it is more obvious than ever before that the sole obstacle preventing the lifting of the embargo on Iraq is Saddam Husayn's presence as the head of the Iraqi Government.

Following the press conference held by the leader of the dissidents the day before yesterday, it became evident that Jordan has become part of the game of toppling the Iraqi regime. It is only logical to conclude that the dissidents had arranged the matter before hand with Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

In the past, we used to witness isolated differences and dissensions. But what is happening now is a split in the "ruling family". The dissidents are not mere individuals as it might seem, but a manifestation of a trend within the ruling family—a trend which aims to ride the wave of Iraqi public anger and seek a way out of the embargo nightmare.

Therefore, the differences between the Iraqi leadership and the dissidents are not differences on the style of the government, regardless of Mr. Hasan's attempts to

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set himself apart or voice his objections. Rather, the differences are on the compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of lifting the embargo.

Given this fact, I do not see any reason why these dissidents should be welcomed. They belong to the Iraqi regime and are among the makers of its current realities. I will not support their call that Iraq should fully comply with the UN or the U.S. resolutions because they do not serve the interests of the afflicted Iraqi people but rather serve the interests of those leaders who wish to extend and renew the span of their government, even if they have to ride another wagon or change their skin and convictions altogether.

I am not defending the Iraqi regime. If it was not for the embargo and the battle currently underway between Iraq and the United States, I would have said a lot. But what should be said at this stage is that the Iraqi regime wrongly believes that it will defeat the United States without the Iraqi people's support. Like all peoples, the Iraqi people will not rally behind a leadership, no matter how just or wise it might be, unless they feel that they are part of the decisionmaking process. There is only one way for participation in decision-making, and that is giving public freedoms and exercising democracy.

We hope that the secessionists will not use Amman as a center for rallying opposition as they have announced, because we have no interest in such a thing. Jordanians have no interest in showing hostility toward the Iraqi regime. We have to stick to legitimacy, and not change our positions according to our expediencies and short-term gains. As for the embargo imposed on Iraq, the way to lift it is through pressuring Arab rulers to lift the embargo they have imposed first, and then the entire embargo would come to an end.

Foreign Minister on Defectors, Iraqi Oil

MM1708141395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Reports by Tariq al-Mumani in Amman and 'Abdallah al-Hajj and 'Umar Jastinyah in Jeddah: "Jordan: We Have All the Options, as Well as Alternatives to Iraqi Oil"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It has been announced in Baghdad that the Iraqi Air Force has carried out mobilization exercises "to face possible threats." The U.S. Navy has intensified its presence in the region as a precaution against any Iraqi military move following the defection to Jordan of Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn.

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stressed that his country has "all the options to respond to any threat. Nobody will be able to undermine our security." Meanwhile the Iraqi leadership has decided to "cooperate fully" with the disarmament commission. [passage omitted]

On the rumors that Husayn Kamil Hasan might leave Jordan, al-Kabariti told AL-HAYAH: "I cannot confirm that. As yet Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan and his colleagues have not revealed their plans regarding their future residence or the nature of their future moves. That is up to them."

On the alleged Iraqi troop concentrations in the direction of Jordan and the possibility of U.S. forces participating in the protection of that country, al-Kabariti said: "I cannot confirm that there are Iraqi military concentrations against Jordan, but I can confirm that Jordan has always been prepared for all eventualities. We have all the options to respond to any threat, and nobody will be able to undermine our security. We have all the means to defend our homeland and nobody can impose his will on Jordan."

AL-HAYAH asked al-Kabariti if Jordan is considering alternatives to Iraqi oil if Baghdad decides to stop supplies to his country. He replied: "We hope that nothing will happen to undermine trade relations with any Arab state, but Jordan must always take precautions against any eventuality. We believe that the way is open for securing all Jordan's needs from many sources." Asked if the Kuwait POW's file could be discussed with Husayn Kamil Hasan, he replied: "Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother have a tremendous amount of information. They were the closest and strongest in the Iraqi regime. We hope that they have information we can be sure of regarding the Kuwaiti missing persons and POW's. That issue concerns us, as we said on numerous occasions, and we will do our best to ensure release of the POW's." [passage omitted]

Intelligence Chief on Iraq, Israel, U.S. Relations

TA1808105095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 18 Aug 95 p 9

["Exclusive" interview with General Tahsin Shurdum, Jordanian Army intelligence chief, by 'Oded Granot in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Granot] Gen. Shurdum, the Pentagon claims that the Iraqi military exercises may threaten Jordan and diminish your early warning range in case of an Iraqi offensive. Do you feel threatened?

[Shurdum] When we are threatened we know how to deal with it, but no one is threatening us this time. We have a good relationship with Iraq. We do not interfere

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in their domestic affairs and they do not interfere in ours. There is no reason for military action.

[Granot] Israelis said five years ago that Saddam would do nothing against Israel, and yet Scuds fell the very next day. Do you agree we are dealing with an unpredictable man?

[Shurdum] It was a war then. There was tension and an escalation. Now we are speaking of a peace process and trying to involve Iraq in it. We would like the sanctions to be lifted and the Iraqi people's condition improved. This is the direction to which we should strive.

[Granot] How can you be sure Saddam will not launch a military operation in reaction to the generals' defection to Jordan?

[Shurdum] Because of the nature of our relations with Iraq, because of our prime minister's statements that Jordan will not be a launching pad for propaganda attacks on Iraq. There is nothing between us and the Iraqis.

[Granot] What about the exercises they are conducting?

[Shurdum] Everyone is conducting exercises. All the countries. It is now the "hot" season of the end of the exercises. There is nothing to it. We are holding exercises too.

[Granot] You do not view it as something directed against Jordan?

[Shurdum] By no means. Why should exercises be directed against us?

[Granot] It is what the Americans are saying.

[Shurdum] Then they should be asked. The Americans have their own assessments, and they have the means to properly monitor the events in the region. America is our ally, and it is assisting Jordan with exercises and with weapons. We have our own assessments.

[Granot] We discovered in the Gulf War that despite the big distance between us and Iraq, a few missiles on the home front can make a big noise.

[Shurdum] It is very true, and that is one of the problems. The missiles are a proof that territory is not the only security-enhancing component. The solution lies in peace in the region that will guarantee that you will not launch missiles at Iraq through our airspace, and that Iraqi missiles will not hit you. We have learned the lessons of the previous wars, and our policy is to make peace. We have a fine, professional army, our leaders have made good plans, and we fear nothing. We used to have many problems, but they have been solved by the king's wise policies. We had our share of hard times, but we knew we were on the right path, and we are proud of it.

[Granot] Do you see Saddam as a possible partner for peace with Israel?

[Shurdum] Iraq is a big country in the region. It has formidable resources, and it will be a partner in peace. Saddam launched missiles during a war, but after the sanctions are lifted, Iraq will seek to become part of the region and to join the peace process. It will benefit the Iraqis, the Jordanians, as well as Israel.

[Granot] How did the officers' desertion affect the domestic situation in Iraq?

[Shurdum] As an army man, I will not answer this question.

[Granot] Does this week's visit to Jordan by the Saudi intelligence chief mark the beginning of a new era from the standpoint of your intelligence cooperation with Saudi Arabia?

[Shurdum] Any improvement in the Saudi-Jordanian relations will benefit everyone. Our foreign minister visited Saudi Arabia in order to improve and normalize the relations, and we want good relations with all the Arab countries, founded on mutual respect, cooperation, and nonintervention in the other party's affairs.

[Granot] With your permission, a few words about the exercises with the Americans, which are beginning today.

[Shurdum] We have been holding joint exercises with various countries, both Arab and foreign, for years. We had exercises with Spain, we cooperated with France, Egypt, Britain, and Oman. Now exercises are held with the Americans with the objective of increasing military cooperation and reaping advantages in the military and political spheres, including information exchanges. It is beneficial for both sides.

[Granot] Last week, a terrorist, who was carrying Saddam's photograph and many weapons, infiltrated into Israel from the territory of Jordan. What can be done to prevent these infiltrations?

[Shurdum] The border between us has been safe and calm for many years, and we invested great efforts in maintaining a calm. We will not permit infiltrations through our border, and we will not tolerate any kind of terror. However, infiltrations may occur nevertheless, and we should be able to handle them. We are cooperating with your country in order to make the border safe. Anyone who wishes to cross over will have to do it only through the existing passages. Crossing is forbidden in any other place. There is cooperation between us, and

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there are some ideas about establishing a "hot line" between the Jordanian and the Israeli military commands, with a view to preventing the recurrence of such events in the future. It will undoubtedly help.

Writer Argues Against Meddling in Iraq's Affairs

JN1708182495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Aug 95 p 18

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "U.S. Pledges to Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A day after the former Iraqi minister, along with his brother, sought refuge in Jordan, U.S. President Clinton expressed U.S. willingness to protect Jordan from any possible Iraqi attack, and added that the United States will not abandon Jordan, which he described as an ally.

There is no doubt that the United States will take military action against Iraq if the latter moves its troops toward Jordan or any other country adjacent to Iraq, because the United States is ready for such action. The motive is not only to defend Jordan, but also to destroy Iraq again. However, this pledge is unnecessary, because Iraq's use of its troops against Jordan is out of the question and would not have any positive benefits for Iraq. Such an eventuality is not even considered an option that the Iraqi leadership might adopt.

As a matter of fact, Jordan has taken security and economic rather than military risks. It goes without saying that the United States can do nothing to ward off terrorist acts, as evidenced by the New York and Oklahoma bombings. As for the economic risks entailed, the U.S. president has chosen not to mention them even by way of insinuation, because he is either unwilling or unable to guarantee that Jordan will be compensated for the possible future losses it will sustain if the crisis exacerbates and reaches the point of a confrontation.

President Clinton has not said that the United States will ensure Jordan a daily supply of oil totaling 70,000 barrels per day for free or for half the market price; that it will pay Jordan $1.1 billion, which is the total of Iraq's debts to the Central Bank of Jordan and which cannot be paid back except by oil shipments; and that it will compensate Jordan for the 10 to 25 percent of its total exports which go to Iraq.

The United States is proposing that we wager on the downfall of the Iraqi regime within days. Consequently, it believes that the aforementioned risks are nonexistent. The Americans argue that the danger lies in waiting until a new Iraqi regime hostile to Jordan is installed. Nonetheless, the costs of the failure of this wager are exorbitant and unacceptable to Jordan.

It is strange that the United States, leader of the new world order, is acting in violation of international law and international legitimacy. It is asking us to play a direct and vigorous role in toppling an Arab regime and interfering in its domestic affairs, the disease from which the Arabs, particularly Jordan, suffered in the 1950's. Such action by Jordan would be in violation of the Arab honor pact, in which Jordan was involved in drafting.

Al-Kabariti Returns From Saudi Arabia, Comments

JN1708161995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti returned to Amman this afternoon after an official visit to fraternal Saudi Arabia during which he delivered a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with fraternal bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them in all areas. Al-Kabariti also held talks with a number of senior Saudi officials.

Upon his arrival in Amman, al-Kabariti spoke to reporters:

"Emphasis was on the substance of the message which I conveyed from his majesty to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques. The message naturally concentrates on the form and substance of the relationship which we want established between our two countries. I believe there will be good news during the next few days. I believe the relations have returned to their normal path."

Al-Kabariti added: I held excellent talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; his highness the crown prince, 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; and his highness prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. The talks dealt with all aspects of bilateral relations.

The minister noted that fraternal Saudi Arabia is very eager to improve and develop relations between the two countries now and in the future. He said the talks also covered the situation in Iraq and that the two sides held identical views on Iraq. He said the two countries emphasize Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity and hope that Iraq will play its role in the Arab ranks. Al-Kabariti said: In fact Saudi Arabia did not ask us to do anything on the Iraqi issue. There was an exchange of

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views and this is very natural. The event has had great implications. We discussed its implications and we discussed its possible repercussions, what the precautions are, and any possible Jordanian-Saudi coordination to deal with repercussions, if any. The promises I carried from Saudi Arabia are linked with bilateral relations. In my previous visit, which was not connected with any event in this region, I stressed the need for restoring our excellent relations, including trade relations that link the interests of our two countries. Oil is undoubtedly an integral part of Saudi-Jordanian ties because in the past we imported all the oil we needed from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Answering a question on Jordanian-Iraqi relations, al-Kabariti said: We always look for improvement in the conditions in Iraq to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Daily Upbeat on Relations With Saudi Arabia

JN1708154695 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Aug 95 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Jordanian-Saudi Relations: A Pillar in the Pan-Arab Edifice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti to Riyadh and meetings with senior Saudi officials for the second time in two months is a significant event for us as we look forward to establishing the strongest relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and promoting these relations in all areas of cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Jordanian-Saudi relations have been, as the foreign minister said, a significant and basic pillar in the structure of inter-Arab relations. Moreover, these relations strongly supported relations among all brethren over many decades. This fact prompts us to attach much importance to this visit and to its expected results.

Undoubtedly, the present conditions in the region add to the importance of restoring Jordanian-Saudi relations and founding them on the strongest possible bases. These conditions also make restoring these relations to their past status a pressing need, given that these relations are a mainstay and a hard nucleus for building a clear Arab and regional strategy that will be immune to the dangers facing joint Arab action both in the present and future.

Therefore, developing cooperation, coordination, and consultation between Amman and Riyadh is a pan-Arab quest that affords no delay. We hope a summit meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, will be held at the earliest time possible, given the extraordinary importance of such a summit in mending fences among the brethren who were split by the repercussion of the second Gulf war.

In light of all this, we are following with maximum interest the foreign minister's visit to the sister Saudi Arabia and his meetings with senior Saudi officials, spearheaded by King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques. We hope this effort will help accelerate the turning over of a new leaf in Jordanian-Saudi relations. We hope these new relations will based on a solid foundation of mutual appreciation and respect and shared viewpoints on most pan-Arab and regional issues.

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Al-Hariri Returns After Meetings With al-Asad

NC1208192995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this evening, after meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus at noon today. The prime minister's talks covered discussed developments in the Middle East and a number of issues of mutual interest.

Al-Hariri visited B'abda Palace upon his return, where he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Sources close to al-Hariri have said that his talks in the Syrian capital concerned various bilateral issues in addition to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process, which is stalemated as a result of the rigid Israeli stances.

The sources added that al-Hariri's consultations with the Syrian leadership aimed to coordinate on all the issues that have a bearing on the two countries' cooperation, the unity of their positions, and their next steps toward the common goals that preserve the national and pan-Arab interests of the two fraternal countries.

Dallul Comments on Negotiations, 'Resistance'

NC1208084195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said: If the [Lebanese-Israeli] negotiations fail, we all must join the Resistance, which represents true steadfastness in the new world order. Minister Dallul declared that he rejects submitting to the pressures aimed at disarming the Resistance. He called for unity between the citizens, State, and Army on the one hand and the Resistance on the other. He said development and reconstruction is an alternative to the Resistance.

Israeli Shelling, Overflights Reported

NC1608115695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces this morning shelled the villages of Qilya, al-Dallafah, Mazra'at 'Ayn Fujur, and Jabal al-Nahr in Western al-Biqa'. The areas of Wadi al-Hujayr, the vicinity of Qabrikha, the old neighborhood in al-Qantarah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr in the central sector also came under artillery fire. Israeli warplanes conducted reconnaissance flights over villages in the central sector and Iqlim al-Tuffah. They flew at low altitude, breaking the sound barrier over these areas.

At 1015 today, Israeli mock raids started to fly at medium altitude over Sidon, the Palestinian camps, and east of Sidon. The Lebanese Army positions located in the region fired antiaircraft weapons at the enemy planes.

Israelis Shell Hills, 'Resistance' Attacks Posts

NC1708175895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Villages in the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills were the target of Israeli shelling this afternoon. The bombardment, with 120-mm and 150-mm artillery, was directed mainly at Mlita, al-Luwayzah, Jabal Safi, Jabal al-Rafi', and Nab' al-Tasah.

The Resistance retaliated with a rocket attack on an Israeli Merkava tank at Sujud post. The tank sustained a direct hit.

The Resistance artillery support unit opened fire with the appropriate weapons on the Bi'r Kallab position and scored hits.

Meanwhile, enemy combat aircraft flew aggressive sorties over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, conducting mock raids and drawing antiaircraft fire from Lebanese Army positions.

The Israeli planes also flew over Beirut, twice breaking the sound barrier.

'Awn Relies on 'U.S. Pragmatism' for Comeback

BR1708135895 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Aug 95 p 4

[Report on interview with former Lebanese Prime Minister Michel 'Awn by Jacques de Barrin and Mouna Naim; place and date not given: "General 'Awn Plans Return to Lebanese Politics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Great designs have great stumbling blocks." The speaker is no philosopher, but a warlord who has been converted against his will into a French peasant. Confined to a village in the Seine-and-Marne region under close police supervision since 13 February 1993, General Michel 'Awn is somewhat infuriated at not being able to move around and speak as he wishes.

One obsession is eating away at this former Lebanese prime minister, who emerged badly from the war and who was forced into a five-year exile by a law which he judges "anticonstitutional": He wants to return to his country. Did the countdown start on the day in October 1990 when he took refuge with his last band of supporters in the French Embassy, or from the day in August 1991 when he actually left for France? "The

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General," as those close to him prefer to call him, claims that it is the former date, but his opponents may well claim the latter.

Sending Out Scouts

General 'Awn said: "I have received no official response on this subject, neither from the French who do not want to get involved in this affair, nor from the Lebanese authorities who have never defined this period of banishment." Would he get into further trouble with the Justice Department if he returned early to Beirut? The only thing he knows is that the case against him is based on "false accusations" since he has "something against all of them," and more particularly something against "the ministers in office who have committed fraud and crimes against humanity."

General 'Awn went on to say: "Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and several other deputies have asked me to return." In any event he does not intend to remain far from Lebanon as of August 1996. He added: "That does not stop me from preparing my political activities immediately and calling on my countrymen to organize themselves" in the perspective of legislative elections planned for next year. Already some of his supporters have been sent out as scouts to start to set up the necessary electoral machinery.

The general wonders, amazed: "How can we ask the Lebanese people to vote freely and at the same time force the symbol of the resistance to keep silent?" If this were the case, the former prime minister is categorical that "this government, which does not even have 4 percent of the people behind it, will pay dearly because, one day, the Syrians will pull out."

He complained: "I have been given a false image, and have been labeled a Christian general even though two-thirds of my army were Muslims and my personal guard even included Muslims. Suddenly they are saying that my return to Lebanon is a destabilizing factor. Do you think that the fact that the people of Beirut refused to vote in the recent by-election to replace a member of parliament who had died — just 8,000 people voted out of a total electorate of 357,000 — can be explained solely by a Christian boycott?"

The general admits: "I do believe passionately, but to act I would have to be given a mandate by the Lebanese people." To convince skeptics that he is not an out-and-out warmonger, he added: "In any event, political battle is waged with voting slips, not guns." This change that he is seeking "through the public will" is being done under the label of a "free patriot current." In confidence — and "confidential" opinion polls taken by universities confirm his convictions — "it appears that the support for this current is never less than 80 percent and my personal popularity has never dropped below 60 percent." Proof if any were needed includes the success of his movement at the recent elections held in the American University of Beirut, and in the Council of the Order of Doctors.

"American Pragmatism"

If General 'Awn is venturing into the political arena now it is only in the perspective of a certain number of obstacles to the sincerity and transparency of this poll being removed, namely: "Changes to electoral law, the creation of a transition government, a multinational presence, and the noninterference of Syria." If these conditions are not met then he and his supporters will boycott the elections. He has no intention of discussing future events with intermediaries of the "puppets with no power" who currently head the government. Instead he will talk with the intermediaries he has already contacted in Syria which "is testing the ground to check (his) conditions."

General 'Awn considers: "The regional role that Syria is playing will reduce in importance with the conclusion of the Middle East peace process, whether or not it subscribes to it." In his opinion: "The future geostrategic balance will not tolerate a Greater Syria" which he claims has taken hold of Lebanon. Nevertheless, he says that he is prepared to take into account certain of Damascus' concerns: "We have not landed here from outer space. I know full well the line that an independent state must not cross. All agreements must be negotiated with respect for international laws and the rules of good neighborliness."

At the international level, General 'Awn is, at the end of the day, "a very isolated man," who has been disappointed and abandoned by many people. He confides: "That is no reason for me to stand down." The only card that he can still play to bring about change in Lebanon is, if we are to believe him, the trump card of "U.S. pragmatism." In other words, the attitude of a major power that opposed him in the past but which could yet set him back in power again if it is clearly in its best interests to do so.

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Argentine Envoy on Reactor Sale Talks, Safeguards

MM1708135595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Argentine Ambassador to Damascus Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Obstacles to Sale of Nuclear Reactor to Syria, Nor Have We Been Subjected to Pressure From Foreign Circles"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus — In the wake of the Argentine Foreign Ministry's confirmation of the report of the visit to Buenos Aires by a delegation of Syrian experts to negotiate the purchase of a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes, Argentine Ambassador to Syria Juan Antonio Pardo has said that his country will sell to Damascus a 3-megawatt experimental nuclear reactor to be used for medical purposes.

The ambassador told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that serious talks have begun in Buenos Aires between Syrian and Argentine officials for the sake of Syria's acquisition of a peaceful nuclear reactor in the framework of the rules and laws specified by international treaties, including those of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. [passage omitted]

The Argentine ambassador to Damascus said that the Syrian experts have held preliminary, tireless, and clear talks with certain officials on ways leading to nuclear cooperation between Syria and Argentina, since this requires several steps for a nuclear program on the basis of which Syrian technical cadres would be trained to qualify them to use and run the nuclear reactor.

He hoped that current talks will lead to an agreement between the two sides on a 3-megawatt nuclear reactor, provided it is not used for military purposes at all. He added: The reactor is relatively small, and our policy is very precise vis-a-vis how to use this nuclear reactor, taking account of the agreements that will govern the course of work in this reactor within the framework of international agreements. This is in addition to inspecting the materials used so that they will not be used except for peaceful purposes. He said that an agreement has been reached between the Argentine Government and a number of states regarding the specific use of reactors for peaceful pursposes.

On the conditions set by Argentina for selling the nuclear reactor to Syria, the Argentine ambassador said: The first stage of talks has begun, and cooperation in this connection has to be within certain rules governing such uses.

He added that Argentina has a strict system as regards the issue of the use of nuclear energy and the control of radioactive raw materials used in these reactors, especially the inspection of the radioactive and sensitive raw materials used. [passage omitted]

The Argentine ambassador did not set a date for the signing of the agreement between Damascus and Buenos Aires. He said that the talks are still in their early stages and proceeding in a positive, good, and open manner. And no disagreement is expected to occur to hamper the course of the talks. Because the two sides are agreed vis-a-vis using this project for peaceful purposes.

The Argentine ambassador denied his knowledge of any Israeli pressure being exerted to prevent Argentina from selling this reactor to Syria, saying that he does not know what the position of the Jewish organization in Buenos Aires will be in this connection. He said: We are trying to ensure that the course of events will not conflict with the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

The Argentine ambassador denied in his statement to AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT that the nuclear reactor that Syria will acquire is similar to the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

He said that the situation is very different from the past. All problems caused by the Iraqi nuclear reactor were solved long ago. And the required security measures have been taken to ensure that no project of this kind will not be subjected to any kind of pressure. [sentence as published] He said that all measures are coordinated with the IAEA.

On what has been reported about Argentina's intention to export arms or missiles to some Arab states, he said: That is untrue. We do not export arms, especially weapons of this type. [passage omitted]

Party Official Comments on Land, 'Genuine Peace'

JN1808072395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said that Syria will not bargain on, relinquish, or cede any inch of land or any right. He added that genuine peace is that peace which is comprehensive and just and cannot be realized without Syria and without Israel's withdrawal from the Golan back to 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon.

Addressing participants in the central party preparation course, comrade al-Ahmar noted that Syria, which considers peace its strategic option, is sincere in its efforts and that the success of this process hinges on Israel's responsiveness to the requirements of peace and the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

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He said that national unity that has been firmly established in Syria is the basis of progress and successes that have been realized since the inception of the Corrective Movement in 1970.

He referred to the process of organizing sections and the foundations of the popular democratic system based on political, party, and economic pluralism and the building of a cohesive domestic front behind the leadership of comrade leader Hafiz al- Asad.

Comrade al-Ahmar said that it is important to restore Arab solidarity so that Arab capabilities can be utilized in serving their causes, defending their rights, and confronting the policy of hegemony, acts of aggression and expansion in the region, and the challenges that face both their present and future.

'Editorial' Views Peace Stand, Israeli Elections

JN1708111495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the Israeli handling of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations, saying: The Israeli Government's version of peace has to be a reflection of its dictates and conditions. This government has found itself faced with serious and real negotiations. Syrian negotiators cannot accept any maneuvering or tricks. They cannot endorse any point that could be detrimental to rights or territory. Moreover, the Syrian position has always been clear. It has always been coherent in its conditions and constant principles. Likewise, it has always been in line with the rules and concepts of international legitimacy. Given these indisputable considerations, there is no room for separate or suspicious deals on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Rabin government has had a taste of the strong Syrian position. That is why it has deliberately sought to obstruct and suspend the peace negotiations, and applied direct pressures through the escalation of its attacks on Lebanon to turn southern Lebanon into scorched earth, not to mention a host of other obstacles Israel has placed in the way of the peace process. All this is aimed at exploding the talks and precluding their resumption and continuation.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The Syrian peace stand will remain unchanged. If the Rabin government believes that time will produce a change in the Syrian position so that it may enter into the upcoming general elections comfortably, then it will have to wait a very long time. The Syrian position, as we have noted, will remain unchanged and unaltered before and after the elections. Moreover, Syria is not interested in any frail agreements that cannot make any contribution to the peace process.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: A solution on the Syrian track of negotiations is the key to peace in the region. Syria will continue to seek a genuine and viable peace. Its principled and firm stand in this regard will not be deterred by any obstacles. Its doors will always remain open for just and comprehensive peace. It will continue to back and support any effort and endeavor made toward that end.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Israel has placed obstacles and obstructions in the way of the peace process. Meanwhile, some of the Rabin government's ministers have come up with ideas regarding compromises on the issues of territory, security, and withdrawal. These ministers have tried to depict themselves as people who are looking for compromises to approximate views and narrow gaps. Such ideas cannot deceive anybody, and cannot be taken seriously.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Accepting compromises means that some territory and some rights will be abandoned, not to mention the undermining of dignity and sovereignty, which Syria will never allow.

The paper stresses that Syria is seeking a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace that will not undermine any of its national or pan-Arab rights nor allow the perpetuation of the occupation of a single inch of territory.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that Syria is seeking a firm and durable peace, and not half solutions that could collapse and disappear with the first crack that could shake the region.

In another commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the dangers of separate deals and their adverse repercussions on the quest for just and comprehensive peace, saying: The Taba agreement was the outcome of the self-rule authority succumbing to Israeli conditions. After a great deal of procrastination and prevarication, the limited self-rule authority has fallen into the Israeli trap once again. It has endorsed a fresh separate deal, whose implementation may need several other deals.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Oslo accord violates the principle of exchanging territory for peace and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is grounded in flawed and illusory settlements that can only lead to catastrophes.

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Radio Commentary Addresses Israeli Peace Claims

JN1708202595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Respected listeners. The Israeli officials' statements that Israel wants peace are not enough to convince the Arabs and the world public opinion that this is truly what Israel wants. There are certain criteria and tests to judge matters. Indeed, there are mirrors that accurately reflect the Israeli attitude. Among these criteria and mirrors are the Israeli destructive air and artillery raids against southern Lebanon. These air raids depict the worst picture of the scorched earth policy, which Israel, whose officials claim they want peace, insists on perfecting by imposing a siege on the coasts of southern Lebanon, thus depriving the southern Lebanese citizens of their last means of livelihood. In other words, Israel, as it were, adds to the scorched earth policy its scorched sea policy.

Southern Lebanon, however is not the only reflection of the real Israeli attitude toward peace. Another mirror that reflects the Israeli attitude is the occupied Palestinian territory, where Israeli settlers commit all sorts of corruptive and terrorist acts and are usurping the Palestinian land to set up settlements with the obvious protection and support of the Israeli government. When Israel is forced to take action against these settlers, its action would be for propaganda purposes and more like the tickling of the ear or the patting of shoulders. How can this be otherwise if the Israeli government every day announces its insistence on Judaizing Jerusalem, maintaining settlements, taking control of the Jordan Valley and the West Bank mountains, and extorting 80 percent of occupied west bank's ground water?

The Israeli position on the occupied Golan and the peace process on the Syrian track has become almost completely isolated from the peace process itself. It has become a tool and a commodity to be marketed in the Israeli elections. It has become a tool for appeasing and fawning on extremism within Israeli society and an arena for the competition between the Labor Party and the Likud bloc.

It seems that Israeli leaders are ignoring the fact that extremism within the Israeli society did not come out of a vacuum. It was the Israeli Labor Party which announced through Moshe Dayan, the former Israeli minister, that the borders of Israel will be at the point where the Israeli tanks stop. Moreover, it was the Likud, led by Menahem Begin, who obtained from the Knesset a decision to annex the Golan to Israel—a decision that was condemned by the international community represented by the United Nations, considering it along with all its consequences to be null and void.

In other words, Israeli extremism, which is behind Israel's nonabidance by the UN resolutions stipulating an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, is not the responsibility of Israeli society as much as it is the responsibility of all the successive Israeli Governments without exception.

Have the two Israeli parties, which have made the question of withdrawal from the Golan an elections commodity, forgotten that Yitzhaq Shamir lost the last elections because he was against peace? Have they forgotten that Yitzhaq Rabin, along with the Labor Party, won the elections because he said he would work for peace four years ago? Why did the current Israeli Government waste four years of the life-span of the peace process? Are these two Israeli parties intending to play the game of procrastination and maneuvering, not to say the game of distribution of roles, for an additional number of years?

What we have seen of Israel's behavior, actions, and officials' statements so far is the real Israeli position toward peace. Such a testimony is not in the interest of Israel, particularly in the eyes of world public opinion.

In all cases, everyone has to understand the fact that there is an Arab public opinion, Arab people, and average Arabs; that disregarding them and their firm insistence to restore their rights and land would not be in the interest of the peace process or the parties involved in it. Everyone has to understand also that the Syrian Government, people, and public opinion believe that the Israeli occupation is not a Labor Party occupation, or a Likud bloc occupation but simply an Israeli occupation. The termination of this occupation is the responsibility of any Israeli Government, regardless of its affiliation. This can be done through a faithful and full implementation of Security Council resolutions. Syria and the Syrian Arab people will accept only a just and comprehensive peace based on Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Arab territories up to the 4 June 1967 lines.

'Paper' Blames Israel for Peace Process 'Stalemate'

JN1808070095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 18 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on Israel's daily aggression against southern Lebanon, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel's daily savage aggression against southern Lebanon differs in its brutality, destruction, and killing

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people and making them homeless, depending on the increase or decrease in the aggressive tendency in the minds of the rulers of Israel to take revenge on Lebanon, which has put up resistance and adopted a firm, principled stand.

AL-THAWRAH says this continued aggression defies the will and resolutions of the international community. In addition, this aggression is one of Israel's permanent methods to obstruct the Madrid peace process. So far, Israel has not done anything to prove that it wants peace or plans to comply with its formula.

The paper goes on: This aggression is targeted against the peace process and also seeks to undermine Lebanon's national accord march and the unity of Lebanese-Syrian coordination. Israel sees in its daily aggressive escalation a means to put pressure on Lebanon to make it abandon its position on peace and quit national resistance against the occupation. However, this Israeli view is wrong in both cases. This is because Israel has forgotten, or probably chosen to forget, that the Lebanon of 1995 is much stronger than the Lebanon which defeated the 17 May agreement in 1983. These long years of aggression should have been enough for Israel to realize that this policy is wrong. This policy has only made Lebanon's position firmer and closer to Syria's position. The resistance has also become more insistent on affirming its presence. Israel should change this policy and deal positively with UN resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH notes that a major objective sought by Israel behind its continued military escalation against the south is to blackmail and embarrass Syria. Syria has never bargained over its position, rights, and land. It will never do so. It is waging a battle for peace honestly and seriously because it wants a comprehensive and just peace in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative. Syria can never accept anything short of full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and the return of rights in full to their owners. While sincerely waging a battle for peace, Syria has not discounted other possibilities and it is capable of defending its positions and pan-Arab duties.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: If Israel truly wants peace, as it claims, then it has no other choice but to quit its policy of aggression and not to adhere to separate deals, end its occupation of Arab lands, and submit to the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace. This will provide security and stability for everybody.

AL-BA'TH comments on the stalemate plaguing the peace process, which is originally caused by the intransigent Israeli position. Israel has continued its attempts to get more and more concessions from some parties that signed separate agreements. The open aggression against southern Lebanon has continued. Israel has continued to refuse to resume talks on the Syrian track. Amid these developments, it is clear that the peace process and its efforts have reached a stalemate and it is difficult to predict when this stalemate will end.

The paper adds: There have been reports that the U.S. secretary of state will make a new tour of the region to reactivate the peace process and break its stalemate. If these reports are true, then we do not expect this tour to take place shortly based on the current developments in the world.

The paper concludes: If the Israeli Government hopes to sign partial agreements with Syria now or in the future, along the lines of the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah accords, then its hopes are impossible to achieve because Syria will never cede a grain of soil or any of its rights. Therefore, the stalemate of the peace process is an Israeli choice. As for Syria, it will continue to cooperate with any efforts made to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

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Afghanistan

Government Claims Pakistan Helping Dostam's Forces

LD1708105195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The war between Afghan Government forces and the Islamic national movement led by General Dostam continues in northern Afghanistan. [video shows general scenes of fighting]

According to a spokesman of [President Borhanoddin] Rabbani's government, in the past two days government forces managed to repel two attacks waged by Dostam's forces.

Without specifying casualties among the government forces the spokesman said tens of opposition forces were killed. He said: In retaliation for the defeat of ground and artillery units, General Dostam's war planes targeted residential and civilian areas of Khorram in Samangan Province. They also bombed four villages in Baghlan Province.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Government announced that a Pakistani group is providing technical help to General Dostam's forces. The government said that this act by Pakistan contravenes the principles of friendly relations between the two states.

Radio Reports Upcoming Visit by Iranian Minister

LD1508201495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In his office this morning, Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs met Iran's Ambassador to Kabul Gholam Reza Haddadi. During the meeting they held talks about friendly relations between the two neighborly and fraternal countries in the light of the positive developments in the political and security situation in Afghanistan, and on the forthcoming visit of Iran's deputy foreign minister. 'Ala'ddin Borujerdi, Iran's deputy foreign minister will visit Kabul in the near future to discuss ways of expanding economic cooperation. During the visit practical ways of Iran's economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation with Afghanistan will be specified.

Minister Welcomes Reopening of Turkish Embassy

LD1508194095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state in foreign affairs, met this morning in his office esteemed (Saleh Ahsan), charge d'affaires of the Republic of Turkey embassy in Kabul. At this meeting both sides spoke about the traditional good relations and friendly ties between the two countries and expressed the hope that these relations will be further consolidated and broadened.

In explaining his country's stance on Afghan issues, the charge d'affaires of the Turkish embassy in Kabul assured that, in consideration of the positive developments and improvement of the security situation, his country's embassy in Kabul is being reopened and from today onward will engage in discharging its diplomatic duties and responsibilities.

Expressing gratitude for this decision of the Republic of Turkey as a realistic gesture, esteemed Dr. Lafra'i then said that the reopening of the Turkish embassy in Kabul will play a major role in further broadening relations between the two countries.

Report Says Rabbani Calling For Resolution Talks

MS1808090795 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 18 Aug 95 p 10

[Report by Ahmed Rashid, including remarks by President Rabbani: "Calm Returns to Afghan Capital"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul — Workers are clearing the four rubble from the streets in Kabul, women defy the mullahs and wear skirts and high heels to shop in the bomb-blasted streets and children have started school again after a gap of two years.

For the first time since the civil war between rival Mujahedin groups began four years ago, Kabul is calm and the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani looks stronger than ever.

Kabul has had no electricity for four years, there are no telephones, running water or waste disposal. But not a single rocket has landed in the city for four months, although peace in the rest of Afghanistan is still a long way off.

"We have forced the opposition groups to pull out of Kabul. There are still difficulties in some regions, but we want to solve problems through talk and dialogue," said Mr Rabbani in his office at the Presidential Palace.

His Tajik-dominated government is still engaged in fighting 100 miles north of Kabul for control of the Salang highway that runs to the border with Central Asia. There, the opponent is the Uzbek warlord Gen Rashid Dostum, backed by the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan. In bloody fighting to the west, Mr Rabbani's military commander, Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, is trying to capture the province of Bamiyan from the Shia Hazaras, a Mongol people, so he can open a route to the government-controlled western heart of the country.

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To the south of Kabul is the Taleban, the Pathan student movement that swept up to Kabul in March but was driven back by Mr Mas'ud. Although there is a temporary ceasefire between the two sides, the Taleban refuse to accept Mr Rabbani as president and promise a renewal of hostilities.

To the east, along the border with Pakistan, is the government's bitterest opponent, the Pathan fundamentalist Golboddin Hekmatyar.

India

Rao Comments on Kidnapping of Foreign Tourists

BK1808090695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said that the kidnapping of foreign tourists in the Kashmir valley is a serious matter and the government will have to exercize caution in some sensitive issues. He was talking to reporters at Visakhapatnam this morning.

Meanwhile, efforts are on in the Kashmir valley for the safe release of the four Western hostages. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent this morning that the kidnappers have assured the authorities about the safety of the hostages.

'Continuous Efforts' To Free Hostages Reported

BK1708155195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, continuous efforts are on to persuade the militants of Al-Faran outfit to release the four foreign tourists without any further delay. An official spokesman said the foreign diplomats are being kept fully informed of the situation and they are in agreement with the government's strategy and efforts to ensure the safe release of the hostages.

Meanwhile, the screening committee of the Srinagar District today announced the released of 24 detainees after reviewing their cases.

'Authorities' Dismiss Rescue Mission

MS1808102595 London INDEPENDENT in English 18 Aug 95 p 13

[Report by Tim McGirk: "Kashmir Rescue Plan Rumoured"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar — Speculation that an attempt may be made to rescue four Western hostages in Kashmir, including two Britons, rose yesterday with reports that one of India's top security advisers had arrived here with a commando unit.

Indian authorities dismissed the possibility of a last-minute rescue mission to save the four kidnapped tourists, who are under threat of death by Kashmiri rebels. Scotland Yard hostage negotiators have flown to India to advise the British High Commission.

General Krishna Rao, governor of Kashmir state, where the Westerners were seized by Muslim extremists six weeks ago while on a holiday trek in the Himalayas, said yesterday that a rescue attempt by the army was unlikely to succeed. "Out there in the blue, in the high Himalayas, unless we're certain we can return these people without harm, it's not advisable to carry out an operation."

Police sources told the Independent that the Indians had received reliable intelligence on where the rebels where holding the tourists at least four times but chose not to risk a commando raid on their mountain camp. The Al-Faran kidnappers, are reportedly moving the hostages through the icy ranges of Kashmir.

The governor disclosed that officials are in contact with the rebels at least once a day through a go-between in Srinagar. "We are in touch with him by radio and telephone. We don't know if he's a militant or a local representative."

The rebels, who beheaded a Norwegian tourist, are threatening to kill the others unless India frees 15 jailed separatist leaders. Indian authorities yesterday set free 24 Kashmiri militants, but none were those named by Al-Faran.

Nearly all the Kashmiri secessionist groups fighting India have condemned Al-Faran's killing of the Norwegian and are demanding that the two Britons — Keith Mangan, 33, from Tooting and Paul Wells, 23, of Nottingham — along with an American and a German, be freed unconditionally.

Spokesman on Pakistan Charges; Hostages Said Safe

BK1808031895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has strongly denounced Pakistan's allegation that India is behind the hostage crisis in Kashmir. Terming the reported statement of Pakistan foreign minister in this regard as absurd allegation, an official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi last night that such allegations will deceive nobody. The spokesman said it is well-known that the Al-Faran group like other militant groups active in Jammu and Kashmir is supported, armed, and trained by Pakistan. The proforma condemnation of hostage taking by Pakistani leaders can only

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be intended to obscure the abundant evidence of Pakistani complicity, he added.

The spokesman reminded that there has been an overwhelming international response, including the Organization of Islamic Conference, against the Al-Faran group's seizure of hostages in Kashmir. The brutal slaying of a Norwegian hostage has shocked the international community and brought out renewed denunciations of the hostage takers. The Pakistan foreign minister's charge that India was behind this incident is nothing but an unavailing attempt to wriggle out of an uncomfortable situation where Pakistan stands identified with the kidnappers.

Meanwhile, efforts are on for the safe release of the four Western hostages. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent this morning that the kidnappers have assured the authorities about the safety of the hostages. The spokesman also added that senior central government officers are helping the state government in the efforts to get the hostages released safely.

Pakistan 'Complicity' in Hostage Issue Viewed

BK1808040795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Aug 95

[Commentary by Pushp Saraf]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has done well to nail Pakistan's lie on the hostages crisis in the Kashmir valley. Pakistan's charge that India is behind the kidnapping of five foreign tourists is entirely absurd. It is an attempt to camouflage the abundant evidence of Pakistan's own complicity in this particular act as well as terrorism in the valley.

What more clinching evidence of Pakistan's direct hand in the crisis is required than the utterances of Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of Pakistan National Assembly's standing committee on external affairs. The Maulana said, both in Pakistan and India, that he had been approached by envoys of at least two powerful Western nations to intervene and secure the release of foreign tourists. He stated in Islamabad that the reasons he had been approached was that one of the kidnappers had mentioned his name. The Maulana followed this up by actually undertaking a visit to New Delhi. He changed his tune a little and said that he would intervene only if India asked him to do so. He left it unexplained why he could not have sought Indian permission before taking off from Islamabad. The fact is that once in India, the Maulana developed cold feet. He was told by Pakistani diplomats that he has exposed the veil that his country was trying to put on its role in terrorism in the valley.

Apparently, even for Pakistan, whose Prime Minister Ms. benazir Bhutto and her rival and predecessor Mr. Nawaz Sharif have repeatedly pledged material and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri militants, it was too much to see its real face being unmasked so unabashedly. The killing of one of the hostages belonging to Norway has shocked the entire world. All Western nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference have been one in condemning Al- Faran for its barbarous crime. It has shaken the Kashmiri conscience as well. Displaying its abhorrence for such actions, the entire valley observed a protest strike on Wednesday [16 August]. This is an historic development as the strike was led by the multiparty Hurriyat Conference, which had so far chosen to virtually ignore the killings by militants.

Small wonder that the latest study by the Congressional Research Service in the United States that the State Department would continue to monitor Pakisatn's role in terrorism. Pakistan will do well to heed the advise by the prime minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, to desist from fomenting terrorism in the valley. The prime minister has once again renewed India's offer for resolving the bilateral issues through a dialogue. Pakistan, unfortunately, has not shown any positive attitude which can only lead to serious repercussions for it.

Meeting With China on Boundary Issue Begins

BK1808095995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two-day meeting of the India-China Working Group on the boundary question began in New Delhi a short while ago. The foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, heads the Indian delegation, while the Chinese side is led by the vice foreign minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan.

The focus of the eighth meeting of the group is on issues relating to the implementation of the border peace and tranquility agreement signed during the prime minister's visit to China in September 1993. The issues include (?clarification) and force reduction along the line of actual control and confidence-building measures. They will also discuss various other bilateral matters and exchange views on regional and global issues.

Minister Says LTTE Cadres' Escape Poses Threat

BK1808012895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Center says repeated incidents of escape of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres in Tamil Nadu pose a grave security threat to the country. Making a statement in the Lok

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Sabha today, the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said over the last three years, eight such incidents took place, in which 42 LTTE cadres escaped, of whom 21 were traced and one was killed. Expressing concern over the escape incidents and militant activity by the LTTE, the minister called for a comprehensive review of the security-related infrastructure by the state government. He said the state government should also make special vigilance and post competent police officers in sensitive positions. Mr. Pilot informed the house that in the latest jailbreak incident so far 10 persons were captured by the Tamil Nadu police and two others committed suicide. The state government has announced a reward of 10,000 rupees for providing information about the remaining 30 LTTE escapees. The minister assured the house that the Center will spare no effort and provide all assistance to the state in strengthening the security of the country.

Meanwhile, the Rajya Sabha witnessed noisy scenes on the issue of escape of 43 LTTE militants from a jail in Tamil Nadu. There were heated exchanges between the Congress-I and the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members soon after Mr. R. Margabandhu, AIADMK, raised the matter during zero hour. Mr. Naraynasamy, Congress-I, demanded that the Center should seek a detailed report from the state government on the matter. He alleged that the Jayalalitha government is going soft against the LTTE activities in the state. The AIADMK members, on the other hand, accused the Center of not supporting the state government in its fight against the LTTE.

Editorial Argues Against External Borrowing

BK1308152995 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 12 Aug 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Keep debt domestic"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In view of the central government's worsening fiscal situation, and keeping in mind that despite offering better yields it faces difficulty in selling its paper domestically, the suggestion has been made in recent weeks that the government should borrow from foreigners to meet the requirements of its unbudgeted expenditure. The reasoning is that, in the alternative, the government will merely end up issuing even more ad hoc treasury bills, which are inflationary. Also, as it borrows ever more in the domestic market, interest rates will go up, thereby punishing domestic industry which is already complaining about the non-availability of credit. The real rate of interest — the difference between the best offer to commercial borrowers and the inflation rate — is over 6 per cent, which is high by any standard. The economy could suffer because of the resultant low growth that flows from high-cost money. Ergo, say the proponents of the idea, the government should borrow abroad: it will not only finance its expenditure cheaply but also not stand in the way of the growth of domestic output. A wonderful idea?

Alas, far from it, until there is a guarantee that the money borrowed overseas will be used for productive investment, earning a return that is higher than the cost of the money (including exchange risk). Unfortunately, however, neither the Indian nor the foreign record — with a few honourable exceptions — suggests that borrowed money will be used sensibly. On the contrary, there is every likelihood that it will be used for financing consumption expenditure. In the late 1970s a host of countries in Eastern Europe and Latin America thought that they were being clever in borrowing cheap petrodollars: foreign banks were only too willing to lend to them. But, sadly, these countries proceeded to use these borrowings to finance their governments' revenue expenditure.

Thus by the mid-1980s, all of them had slid into a debt-trap. Mexico even defaulted in 1982, setting off the Latin American debt crisis. There followed a decade of negative growth in all these countries, and it was only in the early 1990s that normalcy returned.

Will India be an exception to this in a similar situation? Not if one goes by the experience of the ad hoc treasury bills. Issued for the first time in 1955 as a temporary expedient, they have become a permanent feature of the fisc. Indeed, far from being done away with, they have been institutionalised through the finance ministry-RBI [Reserve Bank of India] agreement, which pegs them at a certain level — Rs [rupees] 6,000 crore at the end of the financial year, and not more than Rs 9,000 crore for more than ten days running. But these levels have not been observed, which just shows how unattainable is the target of abolishing these bills in three years. More importantly, it shows how difficult it is to persuade governments to live within their means, especially when they get into one of their populist fits. In India, these fits have become alarmingly frequent.

This being so, is it a good idea to convert a portion of the domestic debt into foreign debt? The answer must be an unequivocal No because, in the ultimate analysis, there are ways of dealing with domestic debt which are not available for dealing with foreign debt. There is a qualitative difference, which doesn't come through if the focus is merely on economic variables such as interest rate differentials here and abroad.

Of course, this is not say that the option must be ruled out for all time. There could conceivably come a time when the Indian economy can afford to pay for foreign debt incurred to meet the government's consumption

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expenditure. But at the present moment, it can't. That is the hard truth. Far better, therefore, if the government would cut is expenditure.

Advanced Nations Said Applying Economic Pressure

BK1708080295 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 95 p 15

[Report by J.N. Dixit: "Protectionism in West India's Economic Dilemma"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cancellation of the contract with Enron has been followed by reports that the opposition in Haryana led by Mr Om Prakash Chauthala will campaign for the scrapping of the contract for a power project in the State. There are similar reports about the Governments in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh reviewing contracts for power and other projects signed with foreign companies.

Without making a value judgment on such cancellations, one conclusion is obvious, that uncertainties in our economic policies would affect foreign participation in our programmes of economic and technological modernisation. Parliament and the public are aware of the difficult and complicated negotiations which preceded the establishment of the World Trade Organisation [WTO] replacing the GATT. The logic which led India to sign the final act of the Uruguay round of negotiations which strings together about 29 agreements, radically changing the intentional trade regime, was that evolving international economic trends indicate that national boundaries will be increasingly eroded by the flow of knowledge, information, goods, services, money and credit.

Secondly, the idealism and commonality of interests which characterised the economic policies of the developing countries in the 1960's and 1970's which insisted on special and concessional treatment no longer exist. We have to adjust to an international economic environment which challenges our ability to compete in the global marketplace.

Thirdly, new arrangements being put in place cover not only goods which were the only subject covered under the GATT arrangements, but encompass areas of investment, intellectual property and patent rights and goods and services. A confrontationist and non- participatory attitude would have left us completely isolated because there was no unity among the developing countries about the stand to be taken on these new extended elements of the proposed international economic order.

Though we are partners of these agreements, we are on record about our reservations regarding many of the provisions affecting intellectual property rights, goods and services and particularly those related to textiles. Though at the formal level the advanced countries are talking about a global economic arrangement which will ensure equal opportunities. Events since the signing of the Marrakesh agreements indicate that our concerns are valid. The overarching prospect manifested by these events is that while the advanced countries plan to increase their market access and economic influence among the developing countries, they are going back on the assurances they gave to the developing countries by subtle and sophisticated means.

Long before the Marrakech agreements were signed and the establishment of the WTO, the technique of imposing non-tariff barriers against exports from the developing countries which were structured on non-fiscal and non-economic reasons was in vogue. When I was working in the Indian Embassy in Washington between 1975 and 1978, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration suddenly decided to change regulations governing salmonella levels acceptable in prawns and shrimps being exported from India to the United States. The reason was the U.S. desire to increase the quantity of imports of these items from Japan and some of the ASEAN countries from whom the United States expected to have advantageous economic returns. There was no scientific or medical ground for this change in regulations.

India had the most controversial negotiations on quotas for the export of handloom products to the United States which were doing well in the American market. Every possible technical twist was given to the provisions of the multi-fibre arrangement to reduce the Indian share. This again was aimed at increasing the quota of textile imports from areas like Hong Kong. Taiwan and China where there were large U.S. investments and expectation of better economic returns. So the tactic and stratagem of the advanced countries with their capital-intensive economies is to reduce to the extent possible the export potentialities of the developing countries in items in demand in the markets of the advanced countries.

This process continues, particularly in terms of non tariff barriers which affect India negatively. The U.S. Government and Congress are now insisting on additional social clauses in the WTO arrangements linking issues like child labour, working conditions, the nature of raw materials used, etc. of products being exported from India. Differences of opinion between India and the advanced countries on intellectual property rights continue. The United States suddenly banned the import of certain categories of skirts made of man-made fibre from India claiming that they are a fire hazard. This is curious. This item which has been exported to the United States for many years has suddenly become a fire hazard.

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The German Government recently informed the Government of India that it would not import tea, coffee and other plantation products if they contain any element of pesticides. Our problem is that though we do not use any dangerous pesticides on products like coffee and tea, we do use DDT for malaria control in plantation areas, for which we do not have any alternative. An entire array of exportable agricultural products would be affected by these restrictions and non-tariff barriers being imposed or likely to be imposed. These can affect the export of our dairy products, fruits, flowers, etc.

It is to be noted that the non-tariff barriers being imposed by the advanced countries are carefully structured to be consistent with standards prescribed by the GATT and evolving hygienic and health standards which are being devised entirely on the basis of norms governing agricultural products in the advanced countries. India will take time to conform to these standards; in the interregnum market access for the developing countries promised under the Uruguay arrangements would remain a theoretical prospect.

While these negative pressures affect our existing economic capacities to gain a foothold in large markets which we have already created for ourselves in the advanced countries, the second track of pressure is to increase the momentum of those aspects of our economic reforms which would serve the interests of the advanced market economy countries. Soon after the initiation of our reforms and liberalisation programme, a high-powered delegation from the Japan Chambers of Commerce and Industry visited India in December 1991-January 1992.

After studying our policies and the time-frame for their implementation, the Japanese delegation put forward 23 demands in the form of a questionnaire suggesting that India should be responsive to the suggestions if it expects full-fledged cooperation from Japan. A recurrent theme at high level political discussions between India and countries like the United States, Japan, Germany, the UK and France has been that though we have done well in restructuring and modernising our economy, both the content and range of our reforms should be increased.

The latest example is some aspects of the discussion held between the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Kenneth Clarke, and our finance minister and other leaders during the first week of June. Three important demands or suggestions which Mr Clarke made were: that India should further liberalise its investment and fiscal policies; secondly, India should open its insurance sector to foreign private companies; thirdly, India should accept the additional social conditionalities and requirements regarding opening up the goods and services sector of the economy as envisaged by the advanced countries.

These are the pressures being applied to reduce our existing economic capacities in areas where we have men, talent and experience. On the other hand, our potential for developing new products and export capacities is subjected to the threat of various export control regimes.

Daily Views BJP Politicization of Personal Law

95AS0463A Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 19 Jul 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Hindu Votes and Individual Law"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Various political parties have started their preparations for the Lok Sabha [lower house of Indian parliament] elections to be held in the earlier part of next year. The two most organized parties — the Bharatiya Janta Party [BJP] and the Communist Party of India-Marxist — are both drawing their election policies, strategies, slogans and the system of publicity. The BJP leaders have decided that the main platform of their propaganda in the forthcoming election will be the implementation of their pledge for an identical code of civil procedure. The primary objective of this pledge is to bring all the citizens irrespective of their religion, sect or gender under the jurisdiction of only one law by eliminating the separate individual laws for the religious minorities that is currently existing in the country. Although there was a provision of separate individual laws for the religious minorities in the Indian Constitution, it also directs gradual transformation into one law applicable to all communities. In one of its recent verdicts, the Supreme Court urged the government to promulgate that constitutional directive without any further delay. After Narasimha Rao's Congress government notified that it was not in a hurry to keep that request immediately, the election pledge of the BJP for the introduction of identical code of civil procedure will gain a distinct momentum. As one nation, one people and one law, there is morally no room for any objection to the identical code of civil procedure. If India is one nation and Indianization is the nationalism for all people irrespective of religion, color, language and culture, then individual law should also be the same for everyone. There is no relation between the freedom of religious practice or pursuing different religion and the individual laws, even though the fundamentalists belonging to each community try their utmost to uphold the separate identity of the individual laws by raising the bogy of infringement in freedom. In the name of this separate identity sex discrimination gets formal recognition;

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deprivation, torture and lack of rights for women receive scriptural legitimacy; the male's monopoly rights in divorce and women's helplessness get approval; over and above even the barbarism of the middle age like four women living with one man being accepted as a religious dictum. With the introduction of the identical code of civil procedure this unjust discrimination could be prevented . Therefore, no one besides the fanatic die-hard reactionaries oppose this identical individual laws, and here lies the suspicion. There is no doubt that the BJP is a fanatic rigid party, whose political spearhead is Hinduism. The election platform of this party during the last Lok Sabha election was to construct a Ramjamabhumi [Ram birthplace] temple at the place of Babri Masjid [mosque]. In fact, when under the guidance of the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh the Babri Masjid was smashed to the ground, in its severe repercussions the BJP lost elections in all of its four administered states [as published]. Thereafter, abandoning the extreme Hindu path, the BJP started raising some relatively secular issues. But this party did not divorce itself from its communal theory of Hinduism, Hindu state, Hindu-Hindi-Hindusthan and so forth. When it gives its pledges in favor of the identical code of civil procedure, its objective is to unify the Hindu voters and to consolidate them on the basis of the demand of depriving the Muslim community from their Sharia [Muslim law] rights or the freedom of individual laws. There is a suspicion that the BJP is approaching its voters with this pledge as a part of a communal plot to fan hatred and inequality toward the minorities.

The BJP leaders have not left any stone unturned in their efforts to remove this fear and suspicion. Firstly, they said that even with the implementation of the identical code of civil procedure there will be no problem in rightfully observing the religious rites of all communities relating to birth, death and marriage. Secondly, they pointed out that the pledges are meant not only for the minorities, they will also bring very significant reforms to the individual laws of the majority community. It will remove that inequality in the Hindu law that although women have a right to live a house, they cannot sell it. It might seem from this statement of the BJP leaders that whatever they said so far about the position of women in a family or society, were someone else's statements and those were wrongfully put into their mouth. The BJP and its allies have fixed the position of women in a family at the kitchen and on the men's bed and have also given their word to revive the Manu Smriti [ancient Hindu law book written by saint Manu] in social behavior if they come to power, or in other words, India turns into a Hindu state. Do their demands or pledges for ending the separate identity of the individual laws of different communities in need of removing the inequality of women, sound trustworthy? All this does not mean that there is no need for the introduction of the identical code of civil procedure. Undoubtedly, there is a need for it. And the means the Narasimha Rao government had adopted by disregarding that need and keeping the matter pending for an indefinite period, is in reality also their opportunistic maneuver — which has no moral bearing — for collecting votes of the minorities in the next election. In fact, due to this decision of the Rao government the BJP got the opportunity to raise the slogans of identical code of civil procedure in the interest of integrating the Hindu votes. But it is desirable that the identical code of civil procedure should not be the platform for any election. It is a sensitive issue, and it will be better to resolve it by making efforts to reach to an unanimous agreement through discussions among all involved communities. By bringing this issue into the tug-of-war of the politics of election, there will again be a greater possibility of fanning communal division and hatred and thereby confusing the whole issue.

Iran

Radio Views U.S. Stand on Bosnia Arms Embargo

LD1208184195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Clinton Vetoes the Bill on Lifting the Arms Embargo"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton vetoed the bill on unilaterally lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia- Herzegovina on 11 August. The House of Representatives passed the bill with a two-third majority early this month. It is to be noted that the U.S. President had set last October as a deadline for the Serbs to accept the Contact Group's proposed plan or have the arms embargo imposed against Bosnia be lifted unilaterally. Clinton's ultimatum, however, was not put into effect and his policy on Bosnia shifted in the direction of merely establishing direct ties with the Serbs and mediating the (?devastating) crisis in (?parley). However, there is no doubt that Washington's contradictory stances on the Bosnian crisis is swayed by factional rivalries. Hence Clinton tried to win over the Democratic representatives who had approved the bill within the 10-day period since its ratification to his veto. Actually Clinton made every effort to bring about a change of heart in those who had favored the bill.

It seems that the White House, through backing of the Croatian Army's attacks against the Serbs, attempts to slow down the trend of the rebel Serbs' relentless aggressions; a move which has eclipsed all other developments in Bosnia, bringing about an ease in the pres-

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sure exerted on the actors behind the scene of Bosnia's bloody turmoil. Following this measure, Washington, through dispatching diplomatic delegations to the European countries intends to make the most out of the latest opportunity in line with its goals in the Balkan crisis as well as in the face of the Congress.

Meanwhile, some political experts maintain that in view of the internal competitions in the United States on Washington's stance toward the Bosnian crisis one can only assess the political impact of such a trend in tilting and changing the developments in Bosnia. For should the practical mode of lifting the arms embargo imposed against Bosnia ever take place it would only be for the sake of some political considerations to the United States' European allies. And weather the United States would really lift the arms embargo or not is in fact engulfed in a vail of ambiguity.

At any rate, the fact of the matter is that Clinton does not want to confront his main rivals in the Balkans, namely France and Russia, by lifting the arms embargo, and constantly brings about hollow pretexts — such as the lifting of the arms embargo would flare up the crisis — which are nothing but lame excuses. For should the West ever decide to lift the arms embargo it will be its only concrete step in alleviating the already insufferable plight of the Muslims and giving them the right of self-defense.

Malaysian Official Meets With Majles Speaker

LD1708134695 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA — Visiting Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad Kamil Jafar conferred with Majles Vice Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hassan Rowhani and Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif here Thursday [17 August].

Ahmad Kamil, who arrived here Wednesday at the head of a political delegation on a two-day official visit, briefed Rowhani on the outcome of his previous visits to several Muslim countries and on the goals of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group which is to hold a session in Kuala Lumpur in a near future.

He said that the OIC contact group session was expected to bring about more closer cooperation among its member states and to take more effective steps in relation to Muslim states.

Rowhani for his part welcomed Malaysia's hosting of such a session and said that basically, the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready for having any kind of cooperation and taking any move necessary to help the oppressed Bosnian nation.

He added that the sad tragedy of Bosnia had placed a heavy responsibility on shoulders of Muslim countries.

Fortunately, he said, a favourable move had been taken by the OIC contact group in this regard and expressed hope that the contact group session in Kuala Lumpur would bear favourable results.

"The time has come for Muslim states to adopt a serious and practical measure," he said, adding "unfortunately, the performance of the U.N. and Western countries in Bosnia showed that there has been no serious political will on their part to solve the deplorable tragedy."

Therefore, Rowhani announced, it was a deputy [as received] of Muslim countries to take serious measures to ensure the survival of Bosnia, which has been formally recognized by the international community and other countries.

He concluded that Bosnian issue had provided a "very good" ground for serious and practical cooperation among OIC members and that adoption of practical measures by Muslim countries could, undoubtedly, influence the decisions of the international community in this respect.

In a separate meeting here Thursday, the Malaysian delegation, led by Ahmad Kamil, and Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif, both sides discussed ways to enforce recent decisions taken by the OIC contact group on Bosnia.

The two sides surveyed latest developments in the Balkans and Tehran-Kuala Lumpur cooperation in this regard at international fora.

They underlined the need for cooperation and coordination among Muslim states to help Muslim Bosnians and to further strengthen the Bosnian Government to confront the aggressor Serbs.

Furthermore, Iranian and Malaysian officials exchanged views on reports and on the agenda of a proposed joint session of the OIC contact group foreign and defense ministers and voiced readiness to have more active participation in the session.

Malaysian Military Official Comments on Bosnia

LD1708181495 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA — Visiting Commander-in-Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces General Ismail Omar announced in Mashhad (Khorasan) on Thursday [17 August] that a party to

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the Bosnian conflict should not be allowed to remain always very strong while the other remain very weak.

The Malaysian general, speaking at a press conferece with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Chief of Staff Brigadier General Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, said that Muslim countries should strive for creation of power balance in Bosnia.

The Malaysian commander is in Iran to explore practical ways of supporting Bosnian people according to the decisions recently taken by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group.

He underlined that the OIC contact group should exert more pressures on the UN to solve Bosnian crisis and prevent massacre of innocent people there.

Asked about his opinion on the current crisis in Bosnia and if there was any hope for the U.N. preventing massacre of Bosnian people, Omar said that it was a complicated issue.

Utmost efforts should be launched to halt the ongoing acts of hostility in Bosnia through negotiations, he added.

As for areas of military cooperation between Iran and Malaysia, Omar said there were numerous grounds for development of such cooperation between the two countries such as contacts between the Iranian and Malaysian armed forces, exchange of meetings, exhange of defence-related expertise and training activities.

Zolqadr on his part said that adoption of measures under the supervision of the U.N. and the Security Council could be part of the solution, but in view of the limitations faced by the world body and its weak structure, it could not fully support the Bosnian people, he added.

He pointed out that other measures are needed to be taken in addition to those carried out under auspices of the United Nations so as to get more chances for saving the Bosnian people.

Zolqadr said that before coming to Iran General Ismail Omar had had consultations with the military officials of Turkey and Pakistan on ways of helping the aggressed Bosnian people.

He also quoted the Malaysian military commander as asserting that both Turkey and Pakistan were ready to extend assistance to the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, he appealed to the big and affluent countries of the world to take practical measures to take practical measures in helping the Bosnian Muslims rather than paying lip services to such a goal.

Bosnia Said To Concern 'Whole World of Islam'

LD1808083995 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, Aug. 18, IRNA — A prominent Iranian cleric said on Thursday [17 August] that the Bosnian crisis was not an issue that concerned the Balkans alone but rather it pertained to the whole world of Islam.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a representative of leader of Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i in charge of Bosnian affairs, made the remark at a conference held in Istanbul to make practical decisions to save Bosnian Muslims from Serb atrocities.

"No one can pin hope on the bankrupt United Nations or on certain Muslim governments," Ayatollah Jannati said.

"Muslims, instead of paying lip services, should take practical steps and provide Bosnian Muslims with their needed heavy armaments," he said.

Addressing himself to the leaders of Islamic organizations represented in the conference, Jannati said that people and Islamic organizations should exert utmost pressures on their respective governments to lift arms embargo against Bosnia.

Calling on Muslims not to let the Bosnian issue be forgotten by staging demonstrations, Ayatollah Jannati urged Muslim Ulema to threaten the Serbs and their supporters with a fatwa on jihad (holy war).

"If the Serbs manage to dominate the region by defeating Muslims, then nowhere in the world will be safe for Muslims and the Zionist regime will follow its expansionist policy," the ayatollah warned.

A number of political, scientific and social personalities from various Islamic countries as well as leaders of Islamic organizations took part in the conference, sponsored by Turkey's Islamist welfare party.

Need for Unity Against Enemy Plots Addressed

NC1608081695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the auspicious anniversary of the esteemed Prophet of Islam, Mohammad—peace be upon him and his scion—Imam Ja'far Sadiq, the heads of the three branches of government, officials, and foreign guests participating in the

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Islamic Unity conference met the great leader of the Islamic Revolution.

During the meeting, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i explained the connotations and importance of unity in the Islamic ummah. He enumerated various plots hatched by arrogant world powers to sow discord among Islamic societies and stressed that unity and solidarity among Muslims is vital. He urged Islamic societies to strive for unanimity of both expression and action.

Despite all the ethnic, nationalistic, and linguistic differences that exist among Muslims, the presence of Islam, their common belief in the Koran, and in the Prophet Mohammad—peace be upon him and his scion—has forged a distinct bond among them.

The historical roots of Islam and the unifying effect it has had among the feuding tribes of the Arabian peninsula, is clear evidence that the unity of Muslims and their reliance on common beliefs can boost the strength of the Islamic ummah and ward off aggressors.

As the great leader of the Islamic revolution mentioned, everyone who wishes to be a reformist in Islamic countries instead converts to Islam. All this indicates the power of Islam.

It is clear in today's world that what motivate the enemy to create discord among Muslims is rising Islamic self-awareness and Muslims regaining their religious identity. This imparts a powerful and rejuvenated appearance of unity. Through Islam, Muslims can foil their enemy's plots and pave the way for greater unity among those who should hold firmly to the rope of God.

Mulsim 'Alliance' Addressed in Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1808103995 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 18 (IRNA) — Provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani today urged Muslims of the world to form a political, economic and military alliance.

Kashani said that had the Muslim ummah (nation) been united, no power could have done injustic to them, adding the crimes now being committed in Bosnia and Palestine against Muslims were the immediate results of disunity among Muslims.

Muslim countries should try to restore security to the region, while preserving their unity, the ayatollah said in his second sermon to a large group of worshippers gathered at Tehran University campus.

Furthermore, he said, the U.S. should not be allowed to go ahead with its policy of adventurism in the Muslim world.

He accused the U.S. of building up its forces in the region under the pretext of recent developments in Iraq. The U.S. forces are now landing in Jordan on the ground that Iraq might attack that country, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Kashani said Iran took great pride in hearing its national anthem played and seeing its flag hoisted in a hostile atmosphere during the world wrestling championships in Atlanta.

The refusal of an Iranian wrestler to compete against an Israeli rival because of the latter representing a usurper regime was another source of honor for the country and an indication of the glory and dignity of the Islamic system.

Further on Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1808120295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0800 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In the second sermon, I want to explain the benefits of Islamic unity in relation to contemporary issues. Then I want to speak about ourselves, that is to say, the Shiite people of Iran.

So what are the benefits of Islamic unity? The enemies are well aware of the importance of this unity. That is why they spend so much money.

If the whole of the Islamic ummah [community] had been united, we would not have seen the problems of Palestine today and the Palestinian Muslims would not be suffering so badly. If there was unity, could the usurper Israel have committed all those crimes?

If the Islamic ummah had been united it would have formed one single political, economic, and social power. It would have formed one single front of resistance against world arrogance and, if it ever became necessary, it could even form one united military power.

If, at a certain juncture, the Islamic world had decided to form a united military power, then there would not be an Israel today and the criminal Serbs would not have been able to commit such atrocities. The oppressed people of Bosnia, who have for long been calling on the world to give them weapons, and only recently the Organization of Islamic Conference, based on a suggestion by the Islamic Republic of Iran, began pondering ways and means of helping them.... [changes thought]

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If Muslims had been united as a power, then world arrogance would not have been able to stop them in any way. Do you think that, if this unity had existed, foreigners could have interfered in the affairs of Tajikistan? Could the enemies have had any influence at all in Afghanistan and bring such misery to the Muslim people of that country?

If Muslims had been united, then all these atrocities which are being committed against the Islamic community the world over.... [changes thought] However, as the eminent leader of the revolution has said, the task is a very delicate and sensitive one and it requires wisdom, understanding, political piety, because personal piety and faith is not enough, and a thorough comprehension of the Islamic world issues. [passage omitted]

If such a clenched fist existed, made up of the power of the whole of the Islamic community, then the situation in the world today would be totally different.

Today we see that the White House, under various pretexts, and most recently under the pretext of dealing with what has recently taken place in Iraq, is dispatching forces to Jordan and other parts of the region. This is despite the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it does not believe that Iraq has any intention of attacking Jordan. However, the United States is looking for excuses to increase its power in the region.

If the Muslims of the world had been one unified force and had chosen to call for the same thing in the world, then we would not have seen world arrogance constantly trying to increase its power in the region and the world of Islam itself would have taken matters into its own hands and established calm and stability in the region.

Right now, Iran believes that we ourselves, together with our neighboring countries, will bring calm to the region and safeguard its stability. We believe, further, that you [as heard] are only after adventurism and you thereby undermine peace and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

These are some of the benefits of Islamic unity. I want to say this to you: Our country has excelled in all fields — in work, production, and in various other affairs, thanks be to God. [passage omitted]

Israel is not legitimate, it is not legal. You Israelis are a people who have driven out the Muslims with evil, force, oppression, and crime. You have taken over the Muslims' homes. You are thieves! We do not deal with thieves. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Hails Wrestling Team's 'Victory'

LD1408105795 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 14, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Monday [14 August] lauded the victory gained by Iran's national free style wrestling team in the world championships held in Atlanta, describing the success of Iranian wrestlers as "valuable and unforgettable."

Addressing officials of the Physical Education Organization, Hojjat ol-eslam Rafsanjani said "a valuable and memorable scene took place in the U.S. yesterday which was of great significance from political and cultural points of view."

Bagging one gold, two silver and one bronze medals, the Iranian free style wrestling team ranked second in the world after 22 years at the end of the 31st international free style wrestling championships in Atlanta, the U.S.

The Iranian wrestlers gained brilliant results in the tournament although political and psychological atmosphere as well as judgements of the matches in the land of blasphemy (the U.S.) were not favourable, the president reitertated.

He stressed that taking the second place at such an international tournament abroad was more valuable than becoming champion at home or in an impartial country.

Today, the president said, the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran through various propaganda ploys are attempting to cast doubt over the progress made by Iran.

He said the presence of Iranian athletes in such international competitions may neutralize conspiracies of enemies.

When Iran's flag is hoisted higher than that of the U.S. and the anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran is played, no one can claim that Iran is an isolated country, President Rafsanjani pointed out.

The U.S. wrestlers, under various pretexts, refrained from participating in world wrestling championships for the youth held in the Islamic Republic of Iran recently, whereas Iranian athletes took part in the Atlanta championships, winning great victories, he said.

The president also underlined the need to promote sports facilities for Iranian athletes particularly for women athletes.

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Significant Increase in Sugar Production Reported

LD1408211195 Tehran IRNA in English 2039 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 14 (IRNA) — Six plants operating under the supervision of the Foundation for the Deprived and Disabled, produced 128,000 tons of sugar and sugar cubes last year, more than double their production in 1991.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA here Monday [14 August], manager of the food and beverages industries Mohammad Bidabadi said the group of plants intended to increase its consumption of beetroots and thereby increase its sugar output this year to about 150,000 tons.

He said the more than 30 percent increase will help protect the current production per hectare of beetroots with a tendency to produce more while factories could rehabilitate the assembly line.

He said lump sugar and granule sugar are done under the superintendence of the Sugar Organization of Iran and each kilogram of produced sugar is bought between rls 900 to 1,000.

He said the average price of granule sugar at the international markets is now about dlrs 420 per ton sometimes going as high as dlrs 700 per ton.

Official Interviewed on New Judicial System

95LA0312A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Jun 95 p 15

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Razini, chief justice of Tehran, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] News Division—The new changes in the nation's judicial system have finally reached the Tehran judiciary. Thus, with the elimination of the prosecutor's offices and the various courts, the numerous phases of judicial proceedings have been reduced. Henceforth we will see a reduction in the time needed for hearing complaints in the courts.

The new judicial system in Tehran came to life recently with the creation of 11 judicial complexes, but the haste in making these changes without the appropriate preparations has left many of those going to the courts out in the cold. The cases for which verdicts have not yet been issued have now been referred from the prosecutor's offices and the legal and penal courts to the branch courts in the judicial complexes. The lack of preparation in some of these courts has made problems in processing 250,000 judicial cases, but the management of the Tehran Province Office of Justice is determined to satisfy its clients as soon as possible.

Although it is difficult to judge the new judicial system without taking its performance into account, in view of this program's goals one may be hopeful about its future.

Expedited handling of cases and avoiding prolonged judicial proceedings is a long-time hope of the people when they refer to the judicial apparatus. No small number of cases remain without final verdicts for years, while the public regards them as riddles and entanglements, including cases such as the Nabovat Foundation, embezzlement in the Export Bank, aircraft crashes, and other things.

The importance of these things has prompted us to interview Hojjat ol-Eslam Razini, chief justice of Tehran, and we now direct the attention of our dear readers to the contents of the interview.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In view of the fact that you have not been chief justice of the Province of Tehran very long, please tell us the benefits of the judicial organizations that have recently been established, and what was the philosophy behind the changes to the system?

[Razini] With regard to the new judicial organizations, I must say that in the past, during the various phases the laws went through in getting approved via the Majles or when they were being studied and confirmed, the question was always being asked whether Islam has a judicial system or not. Was it enough for us to observe a series of general principles, or should there also be a specific judicial system?

The outcome of these debates was usually that principles should be observed in the judicial system, such as judiciary justice, equality between the parties, avoiding prolonged proceedings, and other things which are principles given in Islamic justice. Our regulations with regard to judicial organizations must adhere to these general principles.

What was added to this theory was that some laws and regulations were approved by the Majles and then rejected by the Guardian Council on the grounds that the prerogatives provided for the prosecutor's offices, the assistant public prosecutors, and the examining magistrates were not in accordance with religious law. In religious law we do not have anyone who is not a judge who has the right to issue verdicts and authorize judgments or the right to authorize arrests and hear testimony. Therefore the Law on Penal Court Procedures, which had hundreds of articles and was approved in the Majles, encountered basic objections in the Guardian Council, objections that could not easily be

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overcome because they went back to basic and crucial issues.

In those years this issue led some of the officials in charge to hold meetings to discuss the principle of the judicial system. At that time, as I remember it, meetings were held for a year by seven Majles deputies who were members of the Judicial Commission, including Ayatollah Yazdi, the deputy speaker of the Majles, the chairman of the Judicial Commission at that time, Mr. Bayat, Dr. Habibi, minister of justice at that time, Ayatollah Moqtada'i, the current general prosecutor and a member of the Judicial Council at that time, and Mr. Kho'iniha, the national general prosecutor. After many discussions and studies, they concluded that a system must be created in which prolonged proceedings and slow work would disappear and where judicial proceedings would bring the delivery of rights and the implementation of justice as close as possible to the people.

In general, the new system has two features. The two-step procedure on penal affairs was reduced to one step. Cases that were presented once to the public prosecutor and were then sent to trial for presentation in court after the indictment was requested were changed, and penal cases were sent directly to the court, the same as civil cases.

The second feature is that we do not divide penal courts 1 and 2 into special civil courts and the like because this really creates limitations for judicial competence. Under the law we require "absolute competence" for a judge so that every judge is able to hear every case. In this way we prevent the incompetence that repeatedly occurs among the courts and causes cases to be passed from this branch to that branch, detaining the people. Of course there is also a series of additional benefits, but most of this law is built upon these two features.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In view of the long period of time you had to implement the project, what is the need for this haste now, so that when a person goes into some of the new judicial complexes, complete disorientation can be seen?

[Razini] Concerning the haste in implementing the organizations, it can be said that the judiciary was not in any kind of hurry to do this. The judiciary requested 10 years for the bill that was presented to the Majles. After the Majles and the Judicial Commission studied this, they concluded that 10 years was too long and reduced the period to five years.

At the beginning of the law's implementation, one cannot conclude from the performance of the judicial officials that they were in a hurry to implement the program. To the contrary, at the outset a judicial precinct was implemented at the same time in every province, and the provincial chief justices were to gradually study the matter with regard to other precincts and to make recommendations about implementing the law to the Central Staff. Under each staff another staff was approved for implementing the law. There was also a Central Staff to supervise the work of the province staffs.

In practice, when the task began we ran into the problems of having two laws in the country. As a judicial official in a province, I had to manage a city for a long time with the old and the new systems. This created severe limitations for me and often left the people with nowhere to go. When the people saw that in a certain city this law was not being implemented, what were they to do? On the other hand things were being done differently in the next city. For example they did things one way in Shiranat and Rey, and elsewhere they did things another way. This created many problems.

Under the old system when cases were heard in Penal Court 2 and Legal Court 2, there were complaints that should have been heard in Penal Court 1 and Legal Court 1. Now we have the problem that if they heard a case in Penal Court 1 and Legal Court 1 and in Penal Court 2 and Legal Court 2, they protest that the case should go to Penal Court 1 and Legal Court 1 in the same municipality. During this period when the new system was in effect, with cases going either to the province court or Penal Court 1 in other cities and other problems like this, in general the officials implementing this project tried to expedite it as much as possible. Of course there were no acute problems, but if this had taken several years even more problems would have beset the people because contradictions in the law are very problematic.

In practice it was seen that having two laws and two sets of organizations does much damage, even though, as you say, conditions for implementing the new program were not that favorable.

We believe that implementing the new law and then solving the problems during implementation has fewer consequences than tolerating a dual situation.

Because of what you said I attributed this to the disorder in the new complexes. In some places we did not have this situation. Problems arose in some complexes because of special problems. Naturally, when any project is implemented in hundreds of branch courts, a number of the branches will have problems. This is natural, but in most cases there were no severe problems and within two to three weeks the courts normalized their work and became independent.

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[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] With regard to the problem with dual laws you mentioned arising from implementing or not implementing the new program, you know that we also have unified procedures and in such situations the final decisions were turned back to the former courts. Thus naturally no special problem should arise. In view of this, why did you insist on hasty formation of the new organizations?

The point must also be made that a more desirable result was obtained implementing the project in the smaller municipalities. For example, the program was implemented well in the Province of Mazandaran, yet in Tehran there were problems.

[Razini] The dual law problem that I mentioned is one of dozens of problems that exist. What I said is that one cannot work in a city with two kinds of laws. This applies not only to the judiciary but also to other organizations such as municipal governments, health care, education and training, and other things. For example, with regard to health care, if there is one set of regulations in east Tehran and another in west Tehran, this will undoubtedly create problems for the people and the officials. This special instance was one of many problems that exist because of this duality.

One problem was that if Penal Court 2 and Legal Court 2 were dissolved in a city and the law was implemented, where would cases be heard that had been protested?

The law was silent on this matter, and this created differences between the courts for a period of time; then the decree on unified procedures was issued. These unified procedures are already being followed, and there is no problem. Of course there were problems with regard to this for several months, and then they were solved with the decree on unified procedures.

However there were several problems like this, all of which exacerbated the public's state of limbo and uncertainty. It is a very difficult thing for those going to the judiciary to keep both the old and new systems in mind. The people need to know with assurance whether to go to the public prosecutor's office or to the general court if they have a problem. It was this that caused the above program to be implemented rapidly, despite the long period of time we had available for implementation. It was better to put the program in place first and then solve the problems. If we had put the program in place in one city and then implemented it a year later in another city, this would have caused more problems for the people.

Concerning the last part of your remarks where you said this project was implemented successfully in a certain province, I must say that it was implemented successfully in most provinces, and the provinces also have numerous judicial precincts. We implemented the law in a period of three months in all the cities of the Province of Tehran. In the first days, for at least two weeks and no more than four weeks our judges had problems and a backlog. There were sometimes also complaints received from the people because through various channels—such as the Friday imams, the officials in organizations, and others—we sought to determine if you were satisfied or not.

In the first two or three weeks we generally felt that there were problems, but after the fourth week, generally in all the precincts we established in Tehran, both the courts themselves and the people and the organizations were satisfied.

There was a case in the city of Varamin concerning a tragic murder. Formerly in cases like this a special trial was sought from the chief justice because of the local sensitivity. Again they asked us for a special trial. We said there was no need for a special trial. The special trial had been for the purpose of eliminating some of the administrative stages to shorten the procedure, and currently these administrative stages do not exist. We told the chief justice, who had been asked for the special trial, to look into the situation, and in view of the clarity of the matter, to issue an opinion. It took less than a month from the time of the killer's arrest to the time the sentence was issued. In some cases this trial would have taken years because of its weight, but this time the case was handled in the current and routine system and its work was completed in less than a month.

In some regions, because of problems such as emigration and excessive development, there were unique problems that could be resolved by increasing personnel and expanding the judiciary. We were able to process an average of 10 to 15 cases per day if we had one judge, and clearly the people's work was done very quickly. In general we did not have disorder in the municipalities, and even in Tehran the disorder was not everywhere.

In Tehran, three tasks were completed in one phase. The old law was eliminated and the branch prosecutor's offices, the general courts, the branches of the penal courts, the assistant prosecutor's offices, the examining magistrates, and the penal courts 1 and 2 were all eliminated and converted to the new system. This is a very difficult thing to do in a city that has more than 200 judicial branches and about the same number of assistant prosecutor's offices and examining magistrates.

A second thing done to extend this law was that numerous judicial units were created in the big cities to facilitate public access. This was very necessary in view of the government's general policy of decentralization,

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especially in the city of Tehran, because of the air pollution, the traffic, etc. If this had been done at any other time it would have created even more delay and frustration for the people.

At the time this law was implemented in Tehran, 10 more judicial complexes were created in 10 parts of Tehran, in addition to the one in the center of the city. In five of these cases there were already judicial complexes, but in five other cases new complexes were established, and this was a great and heavy task. For example, formerly in the Resalat, Tehran Pars, or Martyr Mahallati Highway areas we had no judicial units. Therefore judicial units were established in these areas.

We made plans to do this rearranging in Tehran in three days. An unwanted problem was added to these two issues, and a very interesting decision was made and approved at a meeting of judicial officials on the appropriate division of judicial units, and this was to move the Tehran Province Office of Justice from the Palace Building and various other buildings to its current building, the former location of the General Prosecutor's office, and the units that were located there were moved to other buildings.

We thought that during the same three days of implementing the law we would also do this rearranging. For this purpose, we brought all of the equipment and cases from their former buildings, but there were problems because of the failure to evacuate some of the units and the rearranging did not take place simultaneously. We were confronted with a fait accompli, and therefore there were problems with the public's old cases; that is, those who had been subpoenaed to the penal and legal courts and the like were coming to us and we were not able to respond to them, but we were able to answer right then for current and routine public tasks.

We even established some of the court branches in public places such as prayer halls and saloons to keep from delaying the public's work, but cases that were already in progress were naturally delayed, causing problems and frustration for the people because the case files were still in cartons and had not yet been rearranged. Praise God, in this regard the judicial officials quickly perceived the problem. Ayatollah Yazdi pursued this matter quite seriously, and the obstacles and problems have now been resolved. Just this week all the former branch court cases have been moved to the new branches. Therefore, those who held prior subpoenas now know were to go. A three-week delay for such a great task is natural.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How much time did you allow for solving the rearrangement problems?

[Razini] The problems that existed have in practice been solved. Of those problems remaining, 10 percent have to do with the former branches, including 200 to 300 branch courts and examining magistrates, and their status has also been clarified.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Whatever the judicial system may be, it cannot automatically be the solution to public judicial problems unless there are judicial system judges and workers who truly make up a strong body and who can give the necessary movement to the judicial system. In these changes, will we see the transfer of some judges and judicial workers or not?

[Razini] Naturally, to the extent that he is able, any manager uses the more competent and appropriate individuals for the more sensitive occupations, and he uses other personnel who have no special problems in other occupations. If there are sometimes personnel problems with the legal authorities, the Administrative Violations Court and even the penal courts will deal with them. We are no exception to this general rule. Right now it is too early to judge this.

We should not judge on this in any case. Rather, the people should judge. The important thing is to gain the confidence and satisfaction of the public with the judicial apparatus, which is the basis and the foundation of our work. We hope, just as the exalted leader of the revolution said, that this confidence exists and that we will be able to increase this confidence in the future and that the people will consider the judiciary the solution to their problems with greater enthusiasm. Other programs also exist in this regard that are also being used to increase the work of the judicial units and sometimes to overcome weaknesses.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] For how many former judges have new orders been issued?

[Razini] New orders have been issued for most former judges. Of course a number of the gentlemen have been transferred to other units.

It is likely that there will be some individuals in a group who will be transferred, but this does not mean that we are losing these personnel. In view of the manpower shortage, which is one of the problems in the judiciary, we are trying to use the more trustworthy people in the sensitive occupations. Of course there were some gentlemen who requested termination of service or resigned because of age or personal problems, or were brought back or retired. In view of the dissolution of the former branches and the formation of new branches and the fact that they did not have any current cases, it was very appropriate for us and for them that they did

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this. Their total number was perhaps no more than 20 to 30.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What measures have you taken to deal with corruption and bribery within the judiciary?

[Razini] What is being said about administrative corruption by staff workers is also more or less to be heard in the Ministry of Justice. When I came here, I had the idea that these kinds of things would be numerous and that we would have to deal with them. When I came I activated the guard division, and a serious approach was taken in this area. Every kind of report which has been received in this area has been pursued, but to make the matter clearer to you I must say that there are two groups of instances like this.

There is the case of the employee who has taken money while on the job, who has done wrong, and who has worked against what is right. These cases are quite limited and few. Of course even this small number is still unacceptable and must be dealt with. Throughout this period there have been about 10 cases like this that we have investigated. For example various individuals have been arrested while accepting bribes, and they have been turned over to the court. Verdicts were issued on most of these cases, and others are about to be issued for some. I believe that dealing with some of these cases has served as a warning to the others and is deterring them from continuing with their violations.

A more widespread problem, however, is that because of a bad habit that exists in our culture, a series of friendly exchanges takes place which is corrupting. For example, out of a kind of friendship and the desire to help, a person gives tea money to the butler. This has become ordinary behavior, like a chronic disease, and of course this is not limited to the judiciary. It is found everywhere.

The necessary education on this should be generally distributed by the media telling people to refrain from this very unacceptable behavior. If someone wants to give financial aid, they should do it through the Aid Committee. Things like this are seen as corruption here and are dealt with. Funds like this, which have come to be known as "sweets," are crimes in the eyes of the law. We deal with these things harshly. The public must be taught in this regard that they must not give any funds to workers and employees other than the funds that must be paid based on the law, and this applies to all the offices.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Do you have special organizations for supervising these cases?

[Razini] There is no need for special organizations. If existing organizations do their work properly, this matter will automatically be resolved. All the government offices have a guard unit, and personnel issues are studied in that unit. There is also a guard unit in the judiciary unit. If a violation by a staff worker is reported, it must be presented there, and they will deal with the matter sensitively. With the tools they have they will determine whether the problem exists or not. If they find evidence that the report was true, the case will be transferred with the evidence and documentation to the judicial division.

The principle is that the existing units in the judiciary should act on their responsibilities. During my time in judicial work, we have tried to make these units active in performing their lawful responsibilities. Because of this, after reports are received, the criminal is arrested and quickly convicted.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In principle, the trial justices must supervise the work of their staff, and we must really demand a certain amount of responsibility from them.

[Razini] This is also true. They supervise, and much of the information we receive about violations is provided by their colleagues. Clearly this supervision exists. Of course information from individuals must be investigated, thereby making it effective. Perhaps one of the reasons that in some places the colleagues of violators do not provide information is the fact that their information is not made effective and the fact that they have problems with their colleagues. If they are certain that the issue will be dealt with, they will undoubtedly provide the information.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Once in a while it is heard that some judges are fired or arrested. Was there not enough care in their selection and appointment, or did they have these problems afterward?

[Razini] Both are possible. First, in answer to your question I will say that the percentage of violators and criminals among judges is quite insignificant compared to that of those in other occupations. Judges are quite honorable and hard working. They are anonymous and unappreciated. Just recently in the Majles we attended the funeral of one of our colleagues. We learned that after 30 years of working, when he died he had been living in a rented house with less than 100 meters on the outskirts of Tehran. He did not even have the ability to rent a place in Tehran.

We have a judge who has been working for 40 years and still rides the bus and has no personal means of transportation. Of course there may be some who have legitimate income other than their salaries as judges with

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which they have purchased homes, but you should keep in mind these people who have this specialist ability and live on this low income for 20 to 30 years, with awareness of the salary issues.

If this individual were a lawyer or a legal expert, he would have a much greater income. These people, who are satisfied with this small income compared to the private sector, are necessarily individuals who care about justice and do not covet material things, even legitimate ones.

Of course there have also been cases where judges were convicted and have been dealt with. In any case the selection work continues, but it is possible that because of the lack of information about the selection, a very small number of cases may arise in the selection process where we do not succeed in learning about individuals. This is quite natural, and that individual must be stopped in subsequent phases.

On the one hand there were individuals who were sound in the beginning and who also did their work soundly for a time, but Satan tempted them and led them astray. It is possible that this may happen in this occupation because of its sensitivity. May God protect us so that we do not waver when tested.

The test is when someone is under intense financial pressure and unaccounted money becomes easily available, but he does not confuse right and wrong. That is where the humanity of a human being manifests itself. Many people pass this test, but others waver. We had someone who had lived soundly for 10 to 20 years, but for an instant he could not restrain himself. For example I recently studied a big case related to the corruption of about 30 to 40 defendants, five or six of whom were judges. In this case there was a judge who had lived a sound life for more than 20 years, but unfortunately he wavered. In any case a judge's eyes are closed, and he does not look at these issues. He punishes the criminal no mater what his level may be. We also convicted them. It is not enough for a human being to be good for a period of time. It is important to remain good. A human being must retain his integrity to the end, especially when tested and in special circumstances.

A judge loses his presence of mind for one moment, but in view of the sensitivity of the issue, if you look at the number of instances and cases, you will see that only a small number of judges has had this problem. However, we have also had cases where a judge has kept intact a trust of tens of millions of tumans left in his keeping without documentation, even when his child was ill and he was having problems with a 50,000-tuman loan. We have many instances like this involving the character of individuals, and individuals usually do not like to have these issues discussed.

It is possible that among hundreds of judges there may be two or three who are corrupt. There is nothing strange about this. The judiciary must be alert, deal with it at the first sign of wavering, and not permit those who have problems to remain. We are completely satisfied with our colleagues. I know that my colleagues in the Ministry of Justice are very religious and good people. They truly believe in justice and are noble and upright.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The people want to know the average time required in the new judicial organizations to hear a case and issue a verdict. Will it still take as much time as before, or will they be able to hope for shorter periods of time processing their cases?

[Razini] This question cannot be answered in theory; it can only be answered in practice. Cases are different. If a judge is a suitable judge and does not have a work backlog, the case will be closed within one week on the first hearing and there will be no problem. There are also cases that have problems elsewhere, are delayed here, or whose research must be completed. The time required for these things will be much easier to calculate after the General Courts Law has been in force for at least a year.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] With your arrival in the Province of Tehran judiciary, will the public be able to hope that some cases which have taken on the quality of a riddle in the judiciary, such as the Nabovat Foundation, embezzling at the Export Bank, aircraft crashes, and other things that have been in the press for years and were suddenly forgotten by the judiciary power, will now be pursued in the new judiciary organizations and that final verdicts will be issued for them?

[Razini] There is a basic difference between these cases in the new organizations and in the old. Many cases more important than these were processed in the past in this same Ministry of Justice and have also been brought to a conclusion. Sometimes, however, a case encounters problems and there is an entanglement that can be resolved only with difficulty. In any case, problems like this do exist and the judiciary must avoid being subjected to pressure; that is, we must adhere to our own procedures and what is in the law. Various issues must not make us precipitous in our decisionmaking. Some issues are inherently important, and haste in resolving them will create problems. This issues will be handled, but with great care and calm. If we act quickly on a case and convict two people, the real criminal will get away and we will not be doing the right thing. It might be interesting for public opinion and the press

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when a murder takes place that we convict the defendant after proving the crime, but it is possible that the real criminal will get away. It is better to act patiently and comprehensively.

Concerning the cases you mentioned, the crash of the Asman aircraft, for example, I must say that this case does not pertain to Tehran. I have information that the officials in charge are trying to process this case as soon as possible.

The Nabovat Foundation case is also a former Ministry of Justice case. After the court ordered the death sentence, on his protest the case went to the National Supreme Court, and naturally it is now to some extent out of our hands.

The case of the Export Bank is an example of the thing I was telling you about. A number of the defendants in this case are now arrested and in detention, and a number of others have been conditionally released. Of course one of the defendants is also a fugitive, but if it had not been for this uproar, we would have easily been able to arrest the fugitive.

Or course there have been problems with part of this trial because the matter has been in the media too much, just as in these circumstances it was also possible for the main criminal in the case, who fortunately has been arrested, to flee, but measures were taken and he was arrested. This is what I am talking about.

These kinds of issues must be pursued calmly. It is not always the case that haste and hurry are beneficial. In some cases this haste and hurry eliminates care in the work. Of course excessive prolonging of judicial proceedings is also unacceptable, but if the prolonging has a justifiable reason it certainly should take place. The processing of this case had also been completed in the prosecutor's office in the late stages of the old judicial system, an indictment had been issued, and it had been referred to the existing court, although no more than a week remained in the life of the former judicial system. Naturally, at that time if this case had been referred to the court it would have been faced with transfers and the problem would have increased. Therefore the case was not referred to the court until the new organizations could be formed.

The case has now been referred to the court and a judge has studied the case. We are also ready to convene the court, and the first court session, God willing, will be held in the first half of Tir [22 June - 7 July].

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The public thinks that sometimes the judicial power wants it to have the patience of Job. How long will the people really have to wait for the Nabovat Foundation case to be tried and a final verdict issued? Don't you think the reputation of the judicial power is being tested based on certain cases? These cases should be resolved in some way, even if it takes more personnel and time, and results should be announced to the public more quickly. God forbid that failure to pursue the case should deprive the judiciary of the status it ought to have with the public.

[Razini] It is not desirable to make promises to the public. I personally would like to avoid making any promises that create commitments. Allow us to wait and see how cases will be heard in the future. To add to the previous discussions, however, I would like to say that one of the problems in the former system was this very repeated trying and leaving and returning to the court again and again with the same case. If you notice, this same apparatus and this same Ministry of Justice tried this Nabovat Foundation case, and it issued verdicts on it more than once.

Therefore, if the problem was with the Ministry of Justice, and if you assume that my arrival will solve the problem, that case was tried even under the former system, and a verdict was also issued after the conviction. The press was there as well, but under the law there are provisions upon whose framework we act. If the law allows 10 appeals of a verdict, as a judge there is nothing I can do about it. I must reissue the verdict, and if the law gives the defendant the right to appeal and the case goes to the court and the court voids it, they give the case to another judge and he also issues a verdict. Even if this is done 10 times, one cannot complain to the judicial power about not doing its job. The judicial power has done its job, and the verdict has been issued. These are the very reasons the gentlemen have made some changes in the law, to get the work done somewhat more quickly.

In the current law, much of the going and returning of cases to the courts under the former system has been reduced, but of course it has not been completely eliminated. Currently there is the right of appeal after the verdict is issued. The court can review the verdict or the Supreme Court can try the case again. Sometimes, if the former verdict is erroneous, it is voided and the case is heard again, but in the new system things come to a conclusion more quickly.

Of course in practice, the question is whether these cases came to conclusions more quickly under the former system or under the new system.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Is the main criminal in the Export Bank case in detention?

[Razini] Yes, the main criminal and defendant is in detention.

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[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] We have heard that a number of people have been conditionally released. Is this true?

[Razini] Yes, one of the defendants has been conditionally released.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In your view, is it right in a case where there have been huge embezzlements to release one of the defendants on bail?

[Razini] The amount of the embezzlements is given as 6 billion to 123 billion in various interviews. In reality, to clarify this issue, it must be said that sometimes someone takes money from the government and public treasury fund and then returns it. Sometimes they take it and use it for personal uses. A great many of the measures taken by this branch have taken the form that funds have been taken illegally from bank accounts for short periods of time, from 5-10 days, and then returned again; that is, on day one a check for 100 billion tumans is passed and then returned. The total of these funds is about 100 billion tumans, and in reality it can be said that one sum has been taken and returned 10 to 20 times. If we consider only the amount withdrawn for personal use, however, it is only about 6 billion.

Concerning your question about why a defendant was released on bail, I must say that some of these people had no role in making personal use and nothing was withdrawn for their benefit. Naturally, from the point of view of a judge there is no need for their detention. Bail is ordered for the amount of the fine they will be required to pay if convicted, and if they don't come back the judiciary has lost nothing.

In general, since the money was returned, they were not incarcerated. Of course those who are accused of spending treasury funds in their own interest have been incarcerated.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] As I remember, in their Friday prayer sermons and in public forums the chiefs of the judiciary, Mr. Musavi Ardebili and Mr. Yazdi, have protested some of the advice given on some of the heavy cases and have stated clearly that the judicial power has been pressured via the advice of some of the gentlemen. Is pressure still being felt right now?

[Razini] During the time I have been chief justice of the Province of Tehran, the kind of pressure you are describing has not been seen from officials or others, and we have had no problem. Of course a distinction must be made between two things. When a person commits a crime, it is not as if everyone realizes that he has committed this crime. Individuals usually commit their crimes secretly and behave respectably among their friends and dependents. Neither the official, the clergyman, the Friday imam, or anyone else has seen this individual do anything. They consider him pious, and sometimes he is known to perform services. There is an emotional feeling that this individual's rights should not be violated, and they therefore ask that the matter be handled with a memo or a reminder, lest we make a mistake. This is a natural thing that occurs frequently. The responsible person conveys the matter to us.

Sometimes, with the proper testimony an innocent person is recognized and acquitted. Sometimes also this testimony has no effect, and only mention of the person's service and positive actions serves to reduce the severity of the sentence. For example, if the law provides for imprisonment of three months to one year, we might sentence him to three months because this is the first time he has wavered. If we are to call this advice, there are very many such instances. We are not uncomfortable with advice like this, and there is no problem with this testimony.

The problem lies in the situation where someone has a view they wish to impose on the judiciary and insists on acquittal and reduction of sentence, especially if this person is an official. This is a most ugly and unacceptable thing to do. Of course the important thing is the judicial apparatus. If someone seeks to impose his ideas and desires out of ignorance of the legal regulations, here the judge is the determining factor. If a judge wants to rule according to the law, these orders have no effect on the verdict. I do not think we have pressure in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that would create a problem for a sound judge. If a judge is strong and firm, this type of advice will never affect the case.

When I was with Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him), he said "pay no attention to what anyone says. Only consider God, and only implement the law. A judge must act on whatever he derives from the case in accordance with the law, and he must give rights to the one who is deserving in view of what the two parties say. In this case there will be no problem. When someone gives advice, when he sees that the verdict has been issued, the matter is finished. If he has a protest to make, he may protest the verdict through the lawful channels, and the case will be considered by higher authorities."

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In the new judicial organizations, the general courts will hear the complaints and petitions from the people of Tehran in 13 judicial complexes. Please discuss these organizations. Has a special place been provided for hearing special judicial cases or not?

[Razini] The large judicial complexes that have been formed were formed initially to facilitate the work

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of the people of the great city of Tehran, with its population of 10 million, so the people will not have to report to a single location. A list of these complexes, their addresses, and their areas of coverage has been published so the people will know where they should go. The people must take their complaints and petitions to the complexes located in their districts.

Apart from these 11 complexes, which are distributed geographically, we have other organizations, one of which has been formed and one of which has not yet been formed. The one that has been formed is the "special complex," located at the former site of the Tehran General Prosecutor's Office. In this complex, issues are raised which are more sensitive and must be centralized, including such things as complaints about Majles deputies and high-ranking judges and officials, as well as embezzling and bribery in government entities, murders in Tehran, and important thefts such as gang robberies and stolen vehicles.

Editorial Discusses Goals of Social Security

95LA0341A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Jul 95 pp 1, 12

[Editorial by 'Abbas Darvish Tavangar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Food, treatment, and housing have been declared the primary needs for survival. Some experts have declared providing treatment resources more important than food. Even though physical and psychological health cannot be regarded as more important than food, they can be evaluated at the same level.

Article 29 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran raises the issue of social security as a "public" right, and the government is obliged to provide the above financial services for members of the society from the general revenues and revenues gained from people's participation. The social security law, as well, includes the subjects of accidents, illness, pregnancy, wage compensation, disability, retirement, death (burial expenses), and unemployment insurance pay.

Treatment and retirement can be considered among the most important activities of the Social Security Organization. According to statistics announced in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], insured persons visited the treatment centers affiliated with or contracted by the Social Security Organization about 18.7 million times. In other words, last year, 75.6 percent of the insured were treated directly by general practitioners and specialist physicians, and 18.7 percent of them were treated indirectly.

Even though this level of activity is significant, it has not been satisfactory to the insured. The low amounts of payments as treatment costs by the Social Security Organization is one of the reasons for dissatisfaction. For example, this organization on the surface pays 80 percent of physicians' fees, but because the basis of the calculation of treatment charges is "artificial" and not "actual," much less than this amount is paid. For example, while general practitioners charge a fee of 5,000 rials [R] to R15,000 for an office visit—now that it is scheduled to increase—the Social Security Organization has only set the rates of R2,000, R2,500, and R3,500 as the basis of payment, and the remainder is paid by the insured.

At the present, some of the ministries and organizations, by establishing treatment committees and collecting similar insurance premiums as those of the Social Security Organization, offer "more services" of "better quality," and because they have been established on the basis of trust, people, by presenting the bills, pay a minimal amount themselves, and a major percentage is paid by their employer. These organizations even take steps regarding certain payments, which the Social Security Organization is incapable of paying, including the extension of loans and sending patients abroad. Why is the Social Security Organization, with its vast volume of financial revenues, unable to offer services in this form?

According to the social security law, 7 percent of the insurance premium must be paid by the insured, 20 percent by the employer, and 3 percent by the government. The government so far owes R1 trillion to this organization for its 3 percent share, and it is projected that by the end of this year, if no action is taken, it will increase to R1.34 trillion. At the present, more than 4,000 government and government affiliated units and public establishments are indebted to the Social Security Organization. The share of the city halls, with the huge revenues that they have gained in recent years, is R100 billion, and the Vahed Bus Company in Tehran alone is R30 billion. If the government and other employers do not pay their debts to this organization and this organization does not invest as soon as possible, those amounts in essential and profitable production and those insured by the Social Security Organization, especially the retired people, will face serious problems in the future. Of course, the Fourth Majles deputies ratified in the Second Plan law that in the course of this plan, every year at least 10 percent of government debts to the Retirement Fund must be paid, and at the end of the Second Plan, at lease 50 percent of the debts will be paid.

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At the present, the per capita insurance premium of various strata of the people is R4,200, whereas based on the R707 billion budget of the Social Security Organization, with a population coverage of about 18.5 million people, only R3,270 [as published] has been placed at the disposal of this organization. According to Note 18 of the Second Plan law, the government is charged with the responsibility of placing the difference in the cost of treatment of the insured, after deducting the per capita share of the insured and the franchise payment by them, as per capita in accordance with the general insurance regulations every year.

Among the other reasons for the pressure on the resources of the Social Security Organization is the lowering of the "retirement age" after the victory of the Islamic revolution, which is 20-25 years of work for workers and 30 years for employees, whereas after retirement, it is seen that the worker or employee continues working in the same office or the same job. Since the collected insurance premium during the time of work is not enough for retirement pay, the difference paid is more than 20 times the collected principle. Considering the increase in population and the general insurance coverage, this problem can have disastrous consequences in the future for the organization, the results of which can be a further decrease in retirement pay or the bureaucracy of the Social Security Organization.

Even though social security in Iran and the world, based on the present laws, is made exclusive to certain cases, it must be noted that this is not merely for one or a few organizations, and it requires "national will." Many of the rich have a duty to engage in this task. In Islam, religious endowments, charity, generosity, alms, interest-free loans, religious taxes, tributes, and attention to the poor, indigent, orphans, the homeless, the ill, etc., and some other instances, create social security for the general public, especially for the oppressed and deprived strata.

Tax Revenue Increase for First Part of Year Reported

95LA0341E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Central News Unit—The tax revenues of the country in the first three months of this year increased by 61 percent over a similar period last year.

Iranbandi, the deputy minister for tax revenues of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, made this announcement and said: The level of direct taxes collected in this period has been about 1.2 billion rials [R], which is 5 percent more than the projection of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] national budget. He said: The self-declaration system was put into operation in the area of businesses from this year, and from next year it will be implemented for companies as well.

Mentioning that in the composition of the government revenues in 1373, 60 percent is from oil, 12 percent from other revenues, and only 8 percent from taxes, the deputy minister for tax revenues of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance pointed out: In the course of the reform of the tax structure of the country, the government will make an effort to expand social justice by identifying revenue sources and increasing the share of tax revenues in the composition of government revenues. Pointing out the need for the government companies to settle accounts with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance as soon as possible, he mentioned the amounts owed to this ministry by government companies as about R1 trillion and said: The directives of the grand leader regarding the creation of economic and social discipline dictates that these companies take steps to put their accounts in order as soon as possible, pay the debts to the treasury on time, and, by offering information on their system of sale through economic codes, help the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance to identify revenue sources.

Pakistan

Editorial Views Clinton Action on Bosnia Embargo

BK1308122095 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 13 Aug 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Clinton and Bosnia — Choose One of the Options"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has vetoed a Congressional resolution that asked the U.S. Administration to lift the UN embargo on the supply of arms to Bosnia. Both houses of the U.S. Congress passed this resolution. President Clinton said in his message that he understands the concern of members of Congress, but in his opinion lifting the embargo would intensify the war — the United Nations would cease to play any role and the United States would have to play a major role in the evacuation of UN peacekeepers from Bosnia. It would be forced to deploy 25,000 troops for this purpose. Both houses of the U.S. Congress demanded the lifting of the embargo despite their awareness of the arguments put forth by the President. The main reason for this is that only the Bosnian Government and the Muslims have suffered from this embargo. The UN peacekeepers and NATO have been unable to check Serb aggression or stop the war. It was in view of the UN failure that Congress

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demanded the lifting of the embargo on the supply of U.S. arms.

In fact, since the beginning of the Bosnian crisis, the Western world and the United Nations have displayed indecisiveness, hesitation, and lack of political power and will to take action. There is no doubt the Western nations and the United Nations have raised a small cry regarding the Serb brutality and the devastation of Bosnian Muslims, but this is mainly because the Western media — particularly the BBC and CNN — have disseminated the story of the cruelty inflicted upon the Bosnians to each and every home in the West. It is thus impossible for anyone to keep quiet. As far as taking action is concerned, the United Nations and the West have not even able to adopt an effective policy to check the cruelty and aggression in Bosnia. The pressure of international public opinion is the actual cause of the recent demand by the U.S. Congress. Unfortunately, the Muslim world has also been unable to play an effective role in this regard, and the practical results of the recent OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] meeting in Geneva, where it was decided not to comply with the arms embargo, are still being awaited.

The U.S. President based his decision to use his veto power on the argument that this will not bring an end to war, aggression, and brutality. Can he deny the reality that barbarism and aggression are continuing and that the United Nations cannot even protect its own "safe havens"? The Congress and the White House will make further contacts in this regard; a final decision on the U.S. response has yet to be made. Therefore, if the U.S. Administration is not ready to accept the demand of the Congress, it should take effective measures under the UN and NATO umbrellas so that the barbarity and aggression is stopped and the Bosnian Muslims are protected. If this is done, no one will need to demand the lifting of the embargo. President Clinton must choose one of the options: He should either stop the aggression or lift the unilateral ban imposed on the Bosnian Muslims. It would not be fair at all if the ban remains but the oppression is not stopped. This would not be in line with the dignity of the United States as a superpower.

Editorial Addresses 'Accusation' by India's Rao

BK1708132295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Rao's Accusation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IT is not surprising that Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has held Pakistan responsible for the killing of the Norwegian hostage in Occupied Kashmir, albeit the wild accusation signifies total bankruptcy of New Delhi's Kashmir case. Alleging "Pakistanihand" has always been a handy alibi for New Dehi to account for expressions of mass uprising against Indian occupation, and the greater the failure to subdue the spirit of resistance in Kashmir,the louder is the noise about "sponsorship of terrorism from across the border". But Narasimha Rao had an extra reason to stir up anti-Pakistan hysteria. He is virtually a lame duck Prime Minister in desperate need of salvaging his credibility as a national leader before his term expires, and India goes to the polls. His Independence Day speech delivered from the historic Red Fort was an opportunity to indulge in rhetoric, and Narasimha Rao had to offer some explanation for drawing a blank against actions by militant Kashmiri groups. He charged Pakistan with "providing arms and training to the Kashmiris and exporting terrorism to Kashmir' [quotation marks as published]- an accusation that New Delhi has repeatedly made, particularly in international quarters to offset the charge of atrocities and human rights violations by the army of occupation. But holding Pakistan responsible for what he called "brutal and senseless killing of the NOrwegian tourist" was taking the joke too far. Even if one were to accept that Pakistan has enough leverage with the militant Kashmiri groups, it has nothing to gain by associating itself with an action that is patently a discredit to the cause of the Kashmiri struggle. The so-called Al-Faran Group, which has claimed the responsibility for taking the hostages has yet to be identified as a genuine resistance organisation, since it has come out the blue to launch the controversial operation, and it may well be a RAW[Research & Analysis Group] sponsored outfit. Pakistan has not only outrightly condemned the kidnapping of foreign tourists, it has also tried its best to secure the release of hostages by sending messages across the LoC, but no one seems to have been able to establish contact with the AlFaran Group.

Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali has promptly responded to Rao's August 15 gimmickly, terming his remarks as highly irresponsible coming as they did from the chief executive of a country. "The regrettable attempt by the Indian Prime Minister to somehow pin the blame on Pakistan appears to fit into a familiar pattern of Indian tactics", he said. Irronically, when Narasimha Rao was trying to trick his compatriots into believing that the trouble in Kashmir was not indigenous but sponsored from across the border, the Valley of Kashmir presented a deserted look as the Kashmiris were observing "Black Day' [quotation marks as published] to clearly bring home the message that they were not a party to rejoicing on the Indian Independence Day. Groups of people set on fire copies of the Indian Constitution and the tri-colour flag as the strike call given by the All

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Parties Hurriyat Conference brought normal life to a standstill, while Governor Krishna Rao performed the ritual of addressing an Independence Day parade in a stadium cordoned off by 5,000 troops. It is pertinent to ask how Narasimha Rao would explain the mass boycott of Indian Independence Day in the Occupied Kashmir. If there is a "Pakistan hand" in it, then it is time for the Indians to pack up and leave the territory they have been saying is an "integral part of India' [quotation marks as published] but have no control whatsoever its people.

'Highhandedness' of Delhi Embassy Staff Protested

BK1708153195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Pakistan high commissioner in New Delhi has protested to the Indian Government over the highhandedness of the Indian intelligence personnel while dealing with staff of the High Commission. According to reports received from New Delhi, Indian intelligence personnel manhandled and abused some ladies of the High Commission staff while they were walking outside the chancery complex on the night of 14 August. Two diplomats of the chancery, who were going to hospital, were also abused by the Indian intelligence. The reports say that telephone calls were also made to the Pakistan High Commission and officials of the chancery in which the callers threatened them of disrupting the Pakistan Day celebrations. About two weeks earlier, the intelligence personnel had damaged a High Commission vehicle when it was going to deliver the diplomatic bag at the airport.

Leghari, Visiting Saudi Official View Kashmir

BK1708114895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said like Saudi Arabia, Pakistan has an important role to play for the stability, unity, and prosperity of the Muslim ummah [community]. He was talking to the visiting Saudi minister for Islamic affairs, Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al Muhsin al-Turki, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president said that Pakistan could also act as bridge between the Muslim ummah and the Western world because of its unique strategic location at the crossroad of different civilizations and regions.

Referring to Pakistan-India relations, the president categorically said Pakistan stood for peace and stability, but India was creating tension in the region by its arms build up and its gross violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir.

Claims of Arms Supplies to Kashmir Rebels Refuted

MS1808093095 London THE GUARDIAN in English 18 Aug 95 p 8

[Letter from Kamran Shafi, Pakistan Embassy Official in London: "Kashmir Code"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The "aid" that Pakistan gives to the freedom movement in Kashmir (Leader, August 15) is political and diplomatic. Pakistan does not supply "weapons and fighters" to the movement.

Pakistan is fully committed to the resolutions of the UN Security Council of 1948, which promised the right of self-determination to the Kashmiris, and considers itself morally bound to support the movement, politically and diplomatically, towards that goal.

Whilst the Simla Agreement does state that Pakistan and India "negotiate on a bilateral basis", India constantly refuses to do so, calling Held Kashmir an integral part of itself. The agreement does not preclude either country from asking for third-party help in solving this long festering and tragic problem. Pakistan remains ready for this help from any quarter — the UN, the Commonwealth Britain, or the US. Indeed any other organisation/country which can exert influence on India.

My government is appalled and greatly saddened at the murder of an innocent tourist and has called for the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages.

Article Claims Government Atrocities in Sindh

95AS0468E Karachi AMN in Urdu 6 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by Nighat Mirza Hena: "These Starving People...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the last three years, the urban inhabitants of Sindh have become the targets of wrath for demanding their rights. The people of Karachi and Hyderabad in particular are the frequent objects of authorities' anger and as a result the people are facing countless hardships and anxious times. In the last six months, 932 individuals have been killed. In the month of June alone, terrorists killed 334 individuals; some of bodies had their heads and limbs cut off and many had been burned. In short, for the last six months, Karachi's streets have looked like scenes of massacre.

This wholesale slaughter of the people is a matter for concern and shame not only for the government but for all politicians. Although Pakistan has a constitution and a system of laws, nevertheless, the inhabitants of Karachi are deprived of the justice which in other

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countries is part of the civil rights of the people. The first duty of the government is to protect the lives, honor and property of its citizens.

Irrespective of who played what role in this bloodbath, the fact is that a large number of unemployed and helpless people have been reduced to starvation. There is no serious effort made to improve conditions. Unemployment is a curse for society but in a city where for the last three years, many residents have been forced to starve, what kind of justice is it for the government to take away the livelihood of many thousand families? Who makes the decisions? When institutions which are supposed to dispense justice lose their credibility, to whom should the people take their complaints?

The awkward justification offered for shutting down evening newspapers was that they were sensation mongering. Since the media of communication are mortgaged to the government, why did not some of the journalists learn from the incidents occurring around them in Karachi and just continue to write that "all is well." Now the old parents, wives and children of these "individuals with conscience" will bear the brunt of their punishment. In these turbulent times when voicing the truth draws punishment, prominent writers and intellectuals have laid down their pens and are holding their breath for further calamities to descend upon the city. The few newspapers who wanted to inform the people of the true state of affairs should instead have taken a lesson from the events around them and kept silent. Our journalists have always been the targets of our governments. Both during martial law and democracy, whenever the written word has described the domestic situation and the people have become agitated, the press has been rendered powerless. But when the situation is such that the walls and roofs of people's homes are riddled with bullets, the written word will no longer be trusted. When the sound of bullets is heard all day and all night; when the dead bodies of the young are carried out of homes; when government employees amuse themselves by dishonouring young girls, there no longer remains any need for television, radio or newspaper. The sad and alarming headlines can be read in the faces of citizens; each man tries not to look at his neighbor but his face betrays a thousand questions. Under these conditions, how will the closing down of a few newspapers solve the government's problem? The only solution which the government finds suitable and which it is fast carrying out is to kill everyone; then there will no longer be any press headlines and no new questions. Dead faces will no longer question with their eyes nor betray fear.

The historian of the future who will compile the history of this city will not need to describe the play of innocent children, the romantic laughter of the young recounting stories nor the experiences of the old told occasionally to their families. The historian will find himself lost in the shadows of death hovering over the city and the city itself will overpower him like a plague. The historian will find no clear words to guide him nor the logical conclusions of intellectuals. Fear, restlessness and uncertainty will close the historical records of this city to all except the most sensitive and conscientious individuals but by then, the doors of this city would have been locked against all those who have seeing eyes and thinking minds. Today this sorrowing city is in search of individuals with conscience but they have stuffed cotton in their ears and do not want to hear the cries of the city. [They are grateful] that their loved ones are still safe and the fire of calamity has not reached them. But when the streets around their homes become the killing fields, will they still be able to stay silent?

Plan for Korean Automobile Factory Reported

95AS0468A Peshawar MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 Jul 95 p 12

[News Report: "Plan to Build Automobiles in Pakistan with the Help of South Korea; Under a Joint Plan, a Factory Would Be Built Near Lahore Which Would Produce 3000 Cars in the First Year"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lahore (APP): Hyundai Motor Company of South Korea and Sahgal Group of Pakistan have signed a joint agreement to build automobiles in Pakistan. Under the joint agreement, the automobile factory would be built near Lahore and would start production in 1996. Three thousand cars will be built the first year. Construction of the factory will commence this month and is expected to be completed by the October of 1996. Hyundai Company will provide the materials and machinery for the construction of the factory.

Daily Reports on Australian 'Major Mining Venture'

BK1708142195 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 13 Aug 95 p 14

[Report by Laila A Ali]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] QUETTA — Major mining venture between Australia, Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation [PMDC] and Balochistan Development Authority [BDA] is underway in Central Balochistan for economic exploitation and correct utilization of 10 million tonnes of zinc-lead ore reserves valued at about Rs [rupees] 1.5 billion in the international market.

An official Spokesman told BUSINESS RECORDER here on Saturday [12 August] that Pasminco of Australia

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alone would invest $15 million initially for further exploitation and feasibility study of this important metal. Zinc metal content is about 12 percent and lead about 2 percent. He said once the development decision is taken, in a couple of years, the same Australian firm in the private sector, would make investment of another $100 million, for mine development and establishment of concentrator for zinc-lead ore at Duddar, Lasbela District about 135 kms northwest of Karachi.

He said in the joint venture for development of mine and concentrator, Pasminco would provide financing facility for PMDC, BDA for their share of equity interest of 25.1 percent. This loan would be serviced by using not less than 50 percent of profit accorded to PMDC and BDA from the project. Neither the Government of Pakistan nor of Balochistan would be required for giving any guarantee.

Meanwhile, Rs 150 million has been spent on drilling of 54 bore holes with total depth of 18,000 meters in a small area of one-third of square kilometer, analysis of samples, metallurgical tests and mining studies of zinc-lead reserves available in Lasbela-Khuzdar belt of Balochistan. Besides providing gainful employment and a major breakthrough in the mining, zinc-lead reserves would ensure annual royalty of over Rs 500 million for Balochistan.

Law and Order Problems Seen Devastating Economy

95AS0468H Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 10 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Lawlessness Detroying the National Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chairman of Karachi's Trade and Industry Association, Ahmad Abdul Satar, has said that strikes and the lack of law and order in Karachi are having a deleterious effects on the national economy so that in the future, there will be a tremendous increase in hunger, poverty and cost of living in the country in general and Karachi in particular. In a recent conversation with JASARAT, the prominent businessman said that because of the deplorable state of law and order, the national economy is sustaining a daily loss of more than 2 billion rupees. Shaikh Manzar Alam, former chairman of the Kaurangi Association of Trade and Industry, told JASARAT that 400 industrital units had moved from Kaurangi, Karachi's largest industrial area, to other provinces while many other industrial units had either shut down or were going to do so and the reason for this was that they were not getting any sales orders and were not getting paid for goods sold. Yaqub Al Karim, chairman of Site Association and Industries, said that the bad law and order situation in Karachi was affecting 800 to 900 million rupees worth of production daily in the Site industrial area. The statements of business leaders pointing out the loss to the national economy caused by the lack of law and order in Karachi and continuous strikes need no further comment. The fact is that the destructive effects have now travelled from the factories and markets to every street and locality and even homes. Since business has come to a standstill, businessmen are spending their savings; thus only items of necessity such as food and drink are being bought and silence reigns in other markets. Even when shops are opened only two or three days a week, there are no customers because frightened citizens are buying only necessities. Every citizen is trying to keep cash available so that he would be able at least to feed his family. Industrial output has shrunk to 25 per cent [of normal]. According to Karachi business circles, Karachi, which used to contribute 65 per cent of the federal revenue, next year will pay only 30 per cent because of the present lack of order; this will cause a large loss to the federal budget. No one knows what will happen to the country. There is a shortage of articles of daily consumption and consequently a continuing rise in prices; the prices of necessities and food items have increased 20 to 30 per cent especially the prices of rice, flour, oil, bread, butter and vegetables and the poor are under great stress. In addition, the supply of vegetables and fruits from outside the city has stopped and now rotten vegetables and fruits are being sold which could spread disease among the people.

The people are astounded that the two major political parties of Sindh, the Pakistan People's Party and Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], who represent the people, remain unaware of the destruction of the national economy and the hardships being encountered by the people. Is the situation in Karachi worse because it is the stronghold of MQM supporters? The hopes of the people of Karachi now rest on the outcome of the proposed negotiations between the two parties. These negotiations may bring about an end to the problems of the citizens but the people are not sure whether these negotiations will even be held. Who will restore the confidence of the people of Karachi?

Editorial Condemns Ban of 'Basic Urban Facilities'

95AS0468F Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 3 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Another Wrong Decision"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has banned the use of mobile phones, pagers and telecards in Karachi for an indefinite period and thus deprived hundreds of thousands of citizens of these basic urban facilities. The

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unfortunate aspect of this decision is that the users of these devices were neither officially informed of the government ban nor were they told the reason for the decision. Some circles are of the view that the decision was taken because of the operation against terrorists and was aimed at depriving terrorists of the facilities. This may be so, but we do not believe that banning the use of these facilities can stop the terrorists. What is certain is that the ban will create problems for ordinary citizens who use the equipment. A few days ago, the government closed down six newspapers in order, allegedly, to curtail terrorism. Now, for the same reason, it has banned mobile telephones, telecards and pagers. Is the government trying to establish a new record for wrong decisions?

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